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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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AFTA Council Adopts New Tariff Time Frame

BK2209070894 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 pp A1, 4

[Text] Chiang Mai—The Afta [ASEAN Free Trade Area] Ministerial Council yesterday adopted a new time-frame to fast-track the reduction of tariff barriers in the manufacturing and agricultural sector in the Asean region, to 0-5 per cent by 2003. The council also agreed to set up an Afta unit to monitor the progress and handle disputes in the regional free trade area.

The Ministerial Council, chaired by Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, will shorten by five years the period for the establishment of an Afta Free Trade Area, originally scheduled for completion by 2008.

The decision signals a willingness by the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to upgrade intra-Asean trade and pave the way for full economic integration in the region. The creation of the Afta Free Trade Area was launched on Thailand's initiative in 1991. Under the original schedule of tariff cuts, more than 20 per cent of tariffs were to be reduced to 20 per cent by Jan 1, 1998, and following that, from 20 per cent to 0-5 per cent by Jan 1, 2003. For tariff rates below 20 per cent, they were be reduced to 0-5 per cent by Jan 1, 2000. [sentence as published]

Under the new schedule, tariff rates above 20 per cent will be brought down to 0-5 per cent by Jan 1, 2000, while tariffs of 20 per cent or below will drop to 0-5 per cent by Jan 1, 1998.

"I would say that this is a significant revision of the tariff reduction scheme," Tharin said. He also indicated that an Afta unit, which will service the private sector in dealing with the complicated tariff reduction programme and its bureaucratic procedures, will be established within the Asean Secretariat by Jan 1, 1995. Moreover, each member of Asean will also set up its own Afta unit to help its private sector understand the Afta process. The unit will coordinate with its parent unit under the Asean Secretariat.

Afta's economic ministers also agreed to set a definite time-table for a phase-out of products on an exclusion list, which were temporarily protected from the tariff reduction regime. The protection of these products had previously caused concern that they were slowing down the development of the free trade zone.

Originally, Asean member countries had the right to temporarily protect "sensitive products" from the tariff reductions over an eight-year period. But it was ruled yesterday that effective Jan 1, 1995, products placed on the exclusion list will have to be phased onto the tariff reduction schedule in five equal installments of 20 per cent annually. At the end of 1999, there will then be no products exempt from the tariff reduction schedule.

The Afta council also agreed to place non-processed agricultural goods onto the tariff reduction programme. A working group will be established to review the sensitive products for eventual phasing onto the tariff reduction scheme. A Thai trade official said each Asean nation will have only a few agricultural products, such as rice, to be set aside for temporary protection. The Afta council also agreed to appoint working groups to accelerate the harmonization of tariffs, customs procedures and customs valuation in the Asean region.

Economic Officials Agree on Trade Working Group

BK2209052094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 pp B1, 2

[Text] Chiang Mai—Senior economic officials of Asean yesterday agreed to set up a working group to study the measures for Asean members to cooperate in the liberalization of 12 areas of trade in services.

Deputy premier Suphachai Phanitchaphak said the working group will adhere to three guidelines: Asean should extend privileges to each member in terms of market access and national treatment; cooperation in trade in services must be consistent with international agreement; members may start cooperating on a bilateral basis.

The 12 areas proposed for cooperation include telecommunications, construction and engineering, distribution, education, financial services, environment, health care, tourism, entertainment and sports, and transportation. The sectors are based on the model of General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), which plans to deal with the liberalization of service sectors. The working group will set priorities for the implementation of the proposed sectors.

Asean has already agreed to shorten the tariff cutting programme for implementation within 10 instead of 15 years. Intra-Asean trade will increase. Further cooperation in services will provide support to the expansion of trade. He said Asean is now serious in moving into the service sectors.

Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, director-general of Business Economics Department, said the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) would today propose the plan on services to the Asean Economic Ministers Meeting which starts today. The working group is expected to complete its task in the middle of next year.

ASEAN 26th Economic Ministers Meeting Opens

BK2209070594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 p B3

[Text] Chiang Mai—The Asean economic ministers will today discuss the possibility of using the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) as a consultative forum by separating it from trade issues and focusing it on promoting regional cooperation in energy, human resources, industry and tourism, said the deputy prime minister.

Speaking upon his arrival, Dr Suphachai Phanitchaphak, who will chair the two-day 26th Asean Economic Ministers Meeting, indicated that he had discussed with his Malaysian counterparts the idea of keeping EAEC as a consultative forum so it will not hinder the development of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec).

The Malaysian-sponsored EAEC, initiated by Prime Minister Dr Mohamed Mahathir in early 1991 shortly after the collapse of the Uruguay Round, has been a thorny issue in regional trade talks as it seeks to exclude the United States and other western countries from membership.

Suphachai said that South Korea, China and Taiwan have signalled their support for EAEC to become an economic consultative forum while Japan still shows reservations. Japan, which relies significantly on the US for its trade, has refrained from upsetting the US by supporting EAEC, although there is support for EAEC in some Japanese circles. EAEC sees Japan as the leader in fostering greater cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, so rules of international trade are not solely dictated by the western economic superpowers.

So far Thailand has been neutral toward EAEC, believing its roles and objectives should be spelt out more clearly before it merits international support. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai recently said the EAEC concept remains vague and there should be more study on it. Before the end of this month the ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will discuss EAEC in New York when they attend the UN Assembly.

The focus of Asean at this point is how it will form a common position toward the 17-member Apec, where it considers itself a core member. In mid-November this year Indonesia will host the second Apec Summit, yet so far Asean has not shown a unified stand on Apec, which, through US pressure, is fast developing beyond its initial objective as an economic consultative forum.

Suphachai stressed that Asean should seriously discuss how to meaningfully participate in the Apec forum and ensure that Apec moves in the right direction.

In Singapore last year Suphachai raised a futile warning flag, saying that Asean should form a common stand towards Apec and clearly discuss its objectives in the forum, otherwise Apec would be dominated by the economic superpowers.

Today the Asean economic ministers will debate a report drafted by the Eminent Persons Group, including the latest call for Apec members to consider steps towards a free trade area by 2020. On Tuesday, the senior Asean officials, doing groundwork prior to the ministers meeting, failed to come up with a conclusive answer to how Asean should form a definite policy toward Apec.

Thailand and other Asean members have not yet formed their respective national policies toward Apec.

Asked about his reaction to the Eminent Persons Group report, Suphachai said the free trade proposal lies far beyond the perspective of Asean at the moment as its priority is to accelerate creation of the Asean Free Trade Area by 2003 or 2004. Suphachai was confident that Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir will attend the Apec Summit in Indonesia although the latter might still have deep reservations about the future of Apec.

Meanwhile, he said Asean also would like to see progress on trade liberalization under the Uruguay Round agreement, whose process should be completed by 2005. "We don't want Apec to move too fast. It must be within the Gatt forum. And Afta, or the CEPT [Common Effective Preferential Tariff] scheme, will have to be completed first," he said. "Then let's see what we can do beyond that."

The Thai minister said Thailand and the developing countries got only one third of what was asked for in trade liberalization under Gatt, which aims at setting universal rules on international trade practices. He added that the emphasis of Thailand at present is to follow the Gatt agreement and to see the gap between developing and developed countries reduced in the process of trade liberalization through development assistance.

Suphachai also discounted the idea of holding another Gatt round but said a new round of multilateral trade talks on agriculture should take place; a round that will be handled by the World Trade Organization within a short and specific timeframe.

"The new round on agriculture should have a definite timeframe—say, a one year round and not a four year round," he said.

Japan

Kono's 22 Sep Meeting With Clinton Previewed

OW2209063694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0608 GMT 22 Sep 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Excerpt] Washington, Sept. 22 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, stepping up his quest for an elusive trade accord with the United States, calls on President Bill Clinton Thursday [22 September] in a meeting likely to determine the shape of trade ties between the world's two largest economies.

The White House meeting, scheduled to begin at 11:15 a.m. (12:15 a.m. Friday Japan time) [1515 GMT], follows an inconclusive, initial round Kono had with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor shortly after his arrival in Washington on Wednesday.

The agenda of the scheduled hourlong session between Clinton and Kono is likely to focus on bilateral trade issues.

"I am sure they would talk mostly, if not exclusively, about trade," said a Japanese official involved in planning for the Kono- Clinton meeting.

At stake is a long-brewing dispute between Japan and the United States over Japanese Government rules and trade practices which the U.S. feels unfairly restrict U.S. firms from doing business in Japan.

Among the business sectors at issue include Japan's auto and auto parts market, government procurement in telecommunications and medical devices, insurance and flat glass.

Frustrated by more than 14 months of wrangling, the Clinton administration has given Tokyo until Sept. 30 to resolve the trade disputes or face U.S. trade sanctions.

Kono and Kantor, who met earlier this month in Los Angeles, spent nearly two hours meeting Wednesday but came up short of a deal. They agreed to another try Thursday afternoon, allowing in the meantime lower-level officials to sort out some of the technical issues involved.

Officials were tight-lipped about what transpired in the meeting between Kono and Kantor, insisting both sides agreed to keep specifics of the talks under wraps while negotiations are under way. [pasage omitted]

Kono's Activities in Washington Highlighted

Kono, Kantor Meet

OW2109220194 Tokyo KYODO in English 2147 GMT 21 Sep 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan's deputy prime minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono met U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Wednesday [21 September] for top-level trade talks aimed at averting a head-long collision between the two allies over a string of trade disputes.

The meeting, which began just hours after Kono's arrival in Washington, culminates months of wrangling over knotty issues on U.S. access to Japanese markets in autos and auto parts, government procurement of medical and telecommunications devices, insurance, and flat glass.

The U.S. Government has given Japan until Sept. 30 to work out a settlement or face U.S. trade sanctions.

Both Kantor and Kono were cautious when asked to predict whether they can prevent another rupture in the protracted trade talks, which have rocked financial markets at every sign of an impasse.

"I will do what I can to get an agreement," Kono told reporters as he showed up at Kantor's office for the late afternoon session.

"We are waiting to see what minister Kono has to say," Kantor said when asked earlier in the day what he expected of the meeting with Kono.

Both officials refused to take further questions from reporters during a brief photo session before they sat down across the table for business.

The meeting, which began less than six hours after Kono flew into Washington, was scheduled to last one-and-a-half hours.

The session Wednesday was expected to be the first of several face-to-face meetings Kono will have with Kantor during his stay in Washington until Saturday.

"We will have our discussions today and in the next number of days," Kantor told reporters earlier Wednesday.

Kono is scheduled to meet President Bill Clinton on Thursday morning and Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Thursday afternoon.

Kono has also set a meeting with Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on Friday, but otherwise there are no other formal events scheduled during his stay in Washington.

Japanese Government sources have suggested that the two countries may work out a deal in some of the areas in dispute, specifically in government procurement and insurance. But officials have all but ruled out an overall settlement in auto trade, a vast industry sector that includes both and automobile market and auto parts.

"Objectively speaking, I don't think a settlement in the auto area is possible (prior to the Sept. 30 deadline)," Japanese ambassador to the U.S. Takakazu Kuriyama told reporters Tuesday.

The main sticking point in the negotiations lies with the so- called "objective criteria" for measuring progress of imports to Japan, the same stumbling block which led to two previous ruptures in trade talks this year, the last time in late July.

The U.S. Government, adopted what the Clinton administration calls "results-oriented" approach, has insisted that Japan commits to "objective criteria" measures that translate any trade deal with Japan to increased sales in the marketplace. Japan has rejected the idea, arguing such a commitment is beyond government reach in free trade.

Kono, speaking to reporters on arrival in Washington, made it clear Japan is not likely to bow, one-way. "Both Japan and the U.S. Need to make efforts to narrow the gap (over objective criteria), Kono said.

While senior U.S. Administration officials have vowed that Washington will use "unilateral measures" against nations which the U.S. feels unfairly restrict U.S. business, Kantor said Wednesday the administration has yet to decide whether to impose sanctions against Japan.

The Sept. 30 deadline involves two separate U.S. actions. One involves Japan's public-sector procurement practices, a trade sector where the U.S. Administration is authorized under the so-called Chapter VII Trade Law to slap trade sanctions.

The U.S. Government is also due to announce by that date whether to pursue Super 301 action against Japan, and possibly other nations, for unfair trade practices over other trade areas. That action will set in motion up to 18 months of negotiation under the threat of sanctions.

More on Kono-Kantor Talks

OW2109234094 Tokyo KYODO in English 2329 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono met U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Wednesday [21 September] and the two officials agreed to meet again Thursday afternoon and attempt to break the stalemate in the bilateral trade talks, a U.S. trade official said.

"We covered a wide range of issues" was all Kono would say when he emerged from the meeting with Kantor which lasted one hour and 40 minutes, 20 minutes longer than scheduled.

The trade official told reporters that the meeting covered "all sectors of the framework," referring to the framework trade talks between the two countries.

The framework accord, struck in July 1993, calls for bilateral trade negotiations on three priority areas—automobiles and auto parts, insurance and government procurement.

Washington has said if the two sides do not come to an agreement by Sept. 30, it will proceed with trade sanctions against Japan based on U.S. antimonopoly laws.

Kono, who arrived in Washington earlier Wednesday, is scheduled to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton on Thursday morning.

Initial Talks 'Inconclusive'

OW2209013394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0100 GMT 22 Sep 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan's Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor made an inconclusive push in their first round of crucial trade talks Wednesday [21 September] aimed at averting possible U.S. Trade sanctions. The two agreed to give it another try Thursday.

"Tomorrow, we will meet again," Kono told reporters after emerging from the closed-door session at Kantor's office.

Kono indicated the two sides did not go into any specific bargaining, saying, "our talks were in general terms."

A Japanese official said the two sides agreed not to divulge details while the negotiations are taking place.

The Kono-Kantor meeting, which took place just hours after Kono flew into Washington, lasted one hour and 40 minutes, 20 minutes longer than scheduled.

A spokeswoman for Kantor, Anne Luzzatto, later said the talks covered "all sectors of the framework," a reference to the long drawn-out "framework" trade talks between the two countries.

Luzzatto said Kantor and Kono have tentatively agreed to set their next round of talks for Thursday afternoon.

Kono, who arrived in Washington earlier Wednesday, is scheduled to meet president Bill Clinton on Thursday morning and Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Thursday afternoon.

Wednesday's meeting between the two officials follows months of wrangling over U.S. access to Japan's automobile and auto parts sectors, its insurance and flat glass industries and government procurement of medical and telecommunications devices.

The US. Government has given Japan until Sept. 30 to work out a settlement or face U.S. trade sanctions.

Prior to the meeting, both Kantor and Kono were cautious when asked if they could prevent another rupture in the protracted trade talks, which have rocked financial markets at every sign of an impasse.

"I will do what I can to get an agreement," Kono told reporters as he showed up at Kantor's office for the late afternoon session.

Kantor evaded reporters after the meeting with Kono, but said earlier that the issue of sanctions hangs on "what Minister Kono has to say."

During a brief photo session before beginning their meeting, both men refused to answer questions from reporters.

Japanese Government sources have suggested the two countries may work out a deal in some of the areas, specifically government procurement and insurance. Officials have all but ruled out an overall settlement in auto trade.

"I don't think a settlement in the auto area is possible (prior to the Sept. 30 deadline)," Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Takakazu Kuriyama told reporters Tuesday.

The main sticking point in the negotiations is the so-called "objective criteria" for measuring foreign access to Japan's markets.

Japan's refusal to agree to U.S. demands for numerical targets led to the collapse of two previous negotiating sessions this year, most recently in late July.

U.S. negotiators adopted what the Clinton administration calls a "results-oriented" approach and insisted that Japan commit to "objective criteria" measures that translate into increased sales in the marketplace.

Japan has rejected the idea, arguing that such a commitment is beyond government reach in free trade.

Upon arriving in Washington, Kono told reporters Japan is not likely to bow only one-way.

"Both Japan and the U.S. need to make efforts to narrow the gap (over objective criteria)," Kono said.

While senior U.S. officials have vowed that Washington will use "unilateral measures" against nations which the U.S. feels unfairly restrict U.S. business, Kantor said Wednesday the administration has yet to decide whether to impose sanctions against Japan.

The Sept. 30 deadline involves possibly enacting two separate U.S. actions. One pertains to Japan's Government procurement practices, a trade sector where the U.S. administration is authorized under the so-called chapter vii trade law to impose trade sanctions.

The other action involves the Super 301 clause which the U.S. could enact against Japan and possibly other nations for alleged unfair trade practices in other trade areas. That action will set in motion up to 18 months of negotiations under the threat of sanctions.

Editorial Questions U.S. Policy on Haiti

OW2109190494 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 20 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Military Intervention Avoided at the Last Minute"]

[Text] As a result of last-ditch negotiations by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and others, the military intervention into Haiti by U.S.-led multinational forces has been avoided. General Raoul Cedras and other military leaders, who took power through a coup in 1991, will step down and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will be reinstated.

There is no assurance that peace will be restored in Haiti, even with the president's return. However, since the military intervention could have resulted in armed clashes among the Haitian military, Aristide supporters, and the multinational forces, reaching an immediate solution can be considered to be a successful achievement on Carter's part, which follows his negotiation with the DPRK (North Korea) over its suspected nuclear development.

Needless to say, behind Carter's success lay the rattling of some mighty sabers by the Clinton administration. Yet, looking back on the developments that led to the agreement, we cannot help but doubt the wisdom of having invoked so much military power.

Haiti is a country with a population of six million. Its military troops number 7,000, of which only 400 troops are said to have undergone regular military training. They are a far cry from a threat to neighboring countries. Nevertheless, the United States brought the matter to the UN Security Council, organized multinational forces, and even mobilized aircraft carriers.

The Haitian problem was largely an American domestic problem, or even a political problem that President Clinton himself stepped forward to tackle in the first place.

Shortly after Aristide was exiled by the coup, then President George Bush said during his talks with the Haitian president: "We will not take military action unless U.S. citizens living in Haiti are endangered." He sent Haitian refugees headed for the United States back to their country.

It was Clinton who made an issue of Bush's forced repatriation policy during his campaign for the presidency in 1992, saying he would review the policy if elected. After Clinton was elected, rumor spread that the United States would accept Haitian refugees and their numbers began to increase.

Against such a background, Clinton, pressured for an early solution to the issue, called for Aristide's reinstatement, and stepped up international pressure against the military junta in Haiti.

Subsequently, economic sanctions through the United Nations were intensified. In late July this year, a ban was placed on all imports and exports except for foodstuffs and medicine, and regular international air service was suspended.

Haiti depends on the United States for 65 percent of its imports and 85 percent of its exports. Sanctions have taken their toll on the innocent, dirt poor. There was no end to refugees trying to head for the United States on boats.

The American people like a president who is a man of action and resolve at difficult times. With the public annoyed by the influx of refugees, Clinton probably wanted to put the Haitian problem behind him prior to the elections in November, even if it meant resorting to force.

However, the military intervention was a policy that was adopted as a result of mistaking the cause and effect of people being displaced.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has tended to increasingly ask for international cooperation in the military and economic fields, and relied on the stamp of approval from international opinion after bringing problems to the UN Security Council in the name of human rights and democracy.

While that is the product of the United States becoming aware of the limits of its own powers, the problem could have been solved without having resorted to the violent method of military force, by eliminating the factors that led to the emergence of refugees.

The U.S.-Haiti agreement was signed immediately after an airborne division, following Clinton's instructions—whose patience had run out—took off from its base in the United States. Though credit for the agreement goes to Carter, we believe that it was the Clinton administration itself that was saved by the agreement.

U.S. Bill To Review Defense Budget Criticized

OW2209044394 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] A bill designed to review U.S. defense expenses for fiscal 1995 was recently approved at the U.S. Senate. It includes a plan to examine overall U.S. military bases in Japan, including the U.S. Forces on Okinawa. In this regard, at a news conference held the evening of 20 September Governor Masahide Ota expressed his intention to welcome the approval. He said: "This is a result of the requests we made during our visits to the United States." The bill obligates the secretary of defense to examine the security relationship between Japan and the United States. Because of this, Governor Ota explained his view that U.S. military bases on Okinawa will "move toward either reduction, maintenance of more efficient bases, or preservation of high-tech base functions." Moreover, he also disclosed a plan to invite Congressman Roland Dellums and Senator Sam Nunn, who are chairmen of arms committees, to gain the understanding of both houses on the actual situation in Okinawa if coordination is made for their visit.

The bill was approved while Okinawa was demanding that both the Japanese and U.S. Governments promote a settlement of U.S. base issues by emphasizing three issues, including the return of the Naha Naval Port. Therefore, the prefectural government is highly assessing the approval, saying that "it is an epoch-making event."

After discussions in both houses, the clause, which Congressman Neil Abercrombile incorporated in a draft prepared by the House of Representatives, was ultimately removed from the bill. Instead, plans to review the security relationship between Japan and the United States from a viewpoint of the overall Asia-Pacific region and to examine U.S. forces in Japan were incorporated in the bill.

The prefectural government thinks that removal of the five "clauses on Okinawa," including "U.S. facilities' economic and environmental impact on Okinawa," is a "setback." On the other hand, the same government expects the revised bill will also require the Defense Department to "prepare a comprehensive report on the actual situation of the U.S. bases on Okinawa."

Governor Ota said: "Unlike the bases on the mainland, most lands used as U.S. military bases on Okinawa are privately owned. They were forcefully taken away from people. From these points of view, I am sure that [the U.S. officials] will understand why we are strongly arguing the bases issue."

NTT Said Unable To Keep Increasing Procurement

OW2209082894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) cannot keep on increasing procurement abroad as it has done in the past, NTT President Masashi Kojima said Thursday [22 September].

Speaking at a luncheon meeting at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, the head of the telecommunications giant said, "personally, I think it will be impossible to continue the trend of raising overseas procurement by 10 percent or 30 percent as we have done in the past."

Noting that procurement from the United States has constituted 90 percent of its overseas procurement, Kojima said, "if I were an American, I would like that uptrend to continue, but we currently have no plans of boosting our purchases for the next few years."

He would therefore refrain from voicing any commitment toward larger procurement at bilateral talks with the United States, he said.

"I wouldn't like to make any promises that are pleasant to hear but which we wouldn't be able to keep three years later," he said, "we don't want to damage the faith of U.S. and European counterparts in NTT by doing such a thing."

Japan and the United States are currently negotiating on the NTT's procurement practices, along with "framework" trade talks on government procurement.

Although the talks are conducted separately, there is a possibility of an agreement being reached at about the same time, Kojima said.

Kojima expressed opposition to the proposal of splitting NTT into smaller groups. "A bigger entity would be better suited to making alliances with international firms and would be able to provide better service to its customers," he said.

He said he expects to see in the future big multimedia corporations "which integrate just about everything, engaged in fierce competition with one another," and noted that such large companies are already being created in the U.S. through mergers.

The talk of a splitup which began five years ago had only the domestic telephone business in mind, and not the multimedia horizon of today, he added.

Kojima said experiments will begin in late September using an optical fiber network that will carry information through 10 gigabytes to research institutes and universities. One gigabyte is capable of carrying a year's worth of newspaper articles in one second, he said.

Another experiment, incorporating 144 companies will also be launched to test video-on-demand and television shopping, he said.

Kojima said NTT is planning to spread the optical fiber network now limited to the central Tokyo area to each household in Japan by the year 2015. If the cost of optical fiber can be brought down as low as that of current copper lines in use, such a feat could be possible at an earlier time, he said.

In order to upgrade terminals and software, his company will actively seek technical alliances with U.S. firms, he said. The listing of NTT shares on the New York Stock Exchange on Sept. 29 will hopefully open up such opportunities with "perhaps unknown, but qualified firms," he said.

Tokyo To Revise Tariff Laws To Meet Global Treaty

OW2209054294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The Japanese Government will revise tariff-related laws within this year to endorse the April accord of the Uruguay Round global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Finance Ministry officials said Thursday [22 September].

Based on recommendations made earlier the day by the Customs Tariff Council, the advisory body to the finance minister, the ministry will draw up bills to revise tariff laws to legislate them during this year's extraordinary session of the Diet in time for planned schedule of putting the Uruguay Round agreement into effect in January 1995, the officials said.

Under the international agreement, Japan is committed to replace its nontariff import restrictions on some farm products, such as wheat and dairy goods, with tariffs, as well as to lower some existing tariffs, they said.

The ministry will also streamline tariff systems and clarify trade rules in line with the Uruguay Round accord, they said.

Internal laws will be revised accordingly, though the global treaty should be ratified first, they said.

Meanwhile, the ministry is considering introducing a petition system to stop imports of counterfeits and designating psychotropic medicines as prohibited imports as a result of the Uruguay Round accord, they said.

Debate on Issues Related to UNSC, Permanent Seat

Leaders Exchange Views

OW2109130294 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 20 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama exchanged views on the issue of Japan's bid for permanent membership in the UN Security Council [UNSC] with Tsutomu Hata, president of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], and Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Japan Communist Party [JCP], in separate meetings at his official residence on the afternoon of 19 September.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who was also present at the meetings, commented on his planned speech at the 27 September plenary session of the UN General Assembly, explaining that he plans "to announce that Japan intends to bear all responsibilities when it becomes a permanent member of the UNSC," under the condition that it would "not participate in activities involving the use of force as prohibited by its Constitution in reflection of mistakes made in the last war."

Hata pointed out there are some cabinet ministers who are passive about Japan's gaining permanent membership in the UNSC, criticizing them by saying: "Japan will become isolated if remarks are made which give the impression that the country is circumspect about the issue." He demanded that the government attach no conditions to Japan's bid for the permanent UNSC seat, saying: "It is not proper to attach preconditions that Japan cannot make any military contributions."

In response, Murayama said: "I have already stated clearly that we are not circumspect about it. I feel that many people have a deeper understanding now." He added: "We will make contributions within the bounds of our Constitution. We cannot participate in combat roles." He also stressed the need for Japan to explain once again about the "restrictions of the Constitution," saying: "It is necessary to thoroughly explain Japan's position to neighboring countries in Asia and elsewhere."

Kono also said: "It is a simple fact that we cannot bypass the Constitution."

In a separate meeting, JCP's Fuwa said: "If Japan becomes a permanent member of the UNSC, it will eventually be burdened with responsibilities, such as participation in combat roles, and turn into a military superpower, even if 'conditions' were to be attached."

In response, Murayama expressed his view, saying: "It has been reported that we are trying to attach conditions such as making contributions within the bounds of the Constitution, but in the UN speech, we plan to speak only about our position and not about 'conditions'."

Kono on 'Enemy Nation' Clause

OW2209043994 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN Morning Edition in Japanese 21 Sep 94

[Text] Yohei Kono, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a lunch meeting with Bolivian Foreign Minister Quiroga Aranibar, who is visiting Japan, at Iikura Hall in Azabudai in Tokyo on 20 September. On the issue of reforming the United Nations, Foreign Minister Kono said: "To our regret, there is an enemy nation clause in the UN Charter, and both Japan and Germany are mentioned as enemy nations." He then said: "I hope this clause will be removed from the UN Charter when the Security Council [UNSC] is reformed." In this way, he explained he will seek removal of the enemy nation clause during the process of reforming the UNSC. Kono showed Japan's active stance once again on gaining UNSC permanent membership, saying "we will make further contributions if international society supports us." Foreign Minister Aranibar suggested his hope to send a country, which will represent Central and Latin American, to the UNSC as either a permanent or nonpermanent member.

Majority for Non-Military Role

OW2209005894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—Some 70 percent of respondents said they support Japan's permanent membership on the UN Security Council [UNSC] if their country is not asked to play a military role, a national daily survey showed Thursday [22 September].

The ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper said only 16 percent are not in favor of a permanent seat by Japan, even without a military role.

The daily said as many as 69 percent of the respondents believe that Japan will be asked for a military contribution should it win a permanent seat on the Council.

The ASAHI said public approval or disapproval over Japan's permanent Council membership apparently depends whether or not Japan is asked to play a military role by the world body.

The daily first asked whether a permanent seat by Japan is supported even if the nation is asked to play a military role.

Fifty-seven percent expressed opposition and 29 percent support for a permanent seat with a military role, according to the ASAHI. However, 70 percent were in favor and only 16 percent against a permanent seat without a military role, the poll showed.

The national daily conducted a nationwide survey of 3,000 eligible voters Sunday and Monday. The responding rate was 76 percent, the ASAHI added.

For Japan's future contribution to the international community, 57 percent stuck to a nonmilitary role while 34 percent said they do not feel Japan's role should be limited in a nonmilitary field.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono is scheduled to spell out Japan's wish to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council in a speech at the UN General Assembly on next Tuesday. Kono is expected to remind the world body that Japan cannot take part in missions involving the use of force due to constitutional restraints.

Package for Tax Reform Decided, Compromise Noted

OW2209050994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0453 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The ruling coalition parties agreed Thursday [22 September] to include the proposed income tax cuts and consumption tax increase in a single package, resolving the thorniest issue in the national tax reform.

The decision came at a final-hour meeting involving three top coalition members, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ], Keizo Obuchi, vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura of Sakigake [Harbinger], party officials said.

Obuchi filled in for LDP President and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who is in Washington trying to resolve the Japan-U.S. trade dispute before attending a UN General Assembly session in New York.

The breakthrough stemmed from a long-awaited compromise by the SDP on the rate of the tax hike in return for a concrete plan to allocate a portion of tax revenue to social services for low-income people, the officials said.

The ruling parties' tax panel will convene shortly to compile the reform package to be submitted for final approval at an extraordinary cabinet meeting this evening, the officials said.

Murayama will then hold a press conference to explain the final policy, crafted barely in time for his government to complete all legislative procedures by the year end as he promised at the Naples summit of the Group of Seven major nations in July.

Technically, the government must submit its reform package early in the extraordinary Diet session set for Sept. 30, in order for the package to be passed by the year's end.

The leaders agreed to raise the consumption tax to 5 percent from the current 3 percent in April 1997 under single legislation with multiyear tax cuts. But a provision will be added to allow a change in the timing and scale before the tax hike is implemented in line with prospects of welfare, effects of administrative and fiscal overhauls and economic trends, the officials said.

As for the tax cuts already implemented this April as a one-year measure, the coalition leaders agreed to continue reduction in national income and local residential taxes at the same scale of 5.5 trillion yen in line with a promise made at the G-7 summit.

The single-year tax cuts also include 700 billion yen in inheritance and other taxes, making the total to 6.2 trillion yen.

On the method of cutting taxes, however, the leaders decided to carry out the 5.5 trillion cuts in two stages instead of the uniform 20 percent cut used this year.

The two-tier method involves cutting 2 trillion yen through a uniform levy rate cut as an economic stimulus and cutting 3.5 trillion yen through a progressive levy system that will be a permanent scheme, the officials said.

The leaders agreed to limit the consumption tax hike to 2 percentage points, instead of 3 point raise favored by the Finance Ministry. But international response to the tax measures is a concern, since Japan promised at the G-7 summit "permanent" income tax cuts worth 5.5 billion yen.

On the other hand, the Japanese leaders succumbed to strong U.S. pressure over Japan's commitment to a three-year time lag between the tax cuts and hike, thus reversing a two-year interval included in a draft tax reform platform by a coalition tax project team.

The new 5 percent consumption tax is estimated to generate annual tax revenue of some 4.4 trillion yen, with the ruling parties already agreeing to cover the 3.5 trillion yen permanent reform and allocate about 500 billion yen to service the stopgap bonds. And as a compromise offer to the SDP, the leaders decided to spare some 500 billion yen from the new tax revenues and offer allocations in national budgets to welfare measures, especially to help those suffering from the sales tax hike.

They also agreed to establish a 1 percent regional consumption tax with tax collection entrusted with the national authority for allocating 20 percent of total revenues from the new 5 percent consumption tax to local governments.

Other major points include abolishing and reviewing preferential and special measures on the consumption and other taxes.

MITI Considers Expanding Preferential Taxation

OW2109143194 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 17

[Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] and the Ministry of Education plan to expand the scope of preferential taxation under which costs that corporations have spent for research are considered for tax deductions in calculating corporate taxes. This is to facilitate private enterprises to conduct joint research projects with national research institutions and universities. So far, the application of preferential tax treatment has been limited to joint research projects between private enterprises and national research institutions. Beginning in fiscal year 1995, however, the two ministries plan to ask the Finance Ministry to approve the application of the preferential treatment to projects between private enterprises and public research institutions and universities. In this way, it is hoped that enterprises will be encouraged to invest in research efforts by promoting joint research projects among private enterprises, government, and academic institutions because enterprises have notably lost interest in the area of research and development due to the prolonged recession.

Under the current preferential taxation that applies to joint research projects, enterprises are granted tax deductions equivalent to 6 percent of the total research costs they have spent. The tax deduction is a special measure to be in effect for two years from fiscal year 1993. Currently, the application of the preferential tax treament is limited to joint research projects between private enterprises and national research institutions. Consequently, industrial circles have strongly called for expanding the scope of this preferential taxation.

In the tax system reform for fiscal year 1995, MITI plans to ask that the preferential taxation be extended for two more years. At the same time, it plans to request that the scope of the preferential taxation be expanded to be applicable to joint projects between private enterprises and the some 200 public research institutions in the nation, including industrial research institutes managed by self-governing bodies. The Ministry of Education plans to ask that tax deductions be similarly applied to joint research projects between enterprises and national and private universities.

According to the Ministry of Education, 740 private enterprises conducted joint research projects with national universities in fiscal year 1993. In these projects, research costs burdened by enterprises totaled 2.6 billion yen. The ministry believes that if research costs burdened by private enterprises in joint research projects with public and private universities and public research institutions were added to this, a total of approximately 4 billion yen would be considered for tax deductions.

Ruling Coalition Considers Welfare Subsidies

OW2109140394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO—The ruling coalition is mulling plans to provide the needy, such as the bedridden elderly, with welfare subsidies in case the consumption tax is raised in the future, coalition officials said Wednesday [21 September].

The idea emerged as a way to persuade the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] to agree to a planned tax reform package that features income tax cuts to be followed by a raise in the consumption tax rate to 5 percent from the current 3 percent in April 1997, they said.

The SDP has strongly opposed the inclusion of words referring to a future consumption tax rate hike, saying a hike hits hard the poor and the needy.

In the past, the government paid an identical 50,000 yen each in one-time subsidies to bedridden elderly people and 10,000 yen in welfare subsidies to elderly pensioners in 1989 when it introduced the controversial indirect tax.

The SDP has been looking for similar welfare subsidies in exchange for a future consumption tax rate hike, the centerpiece of debate between the SDP and other parties involved in the coalition.

Differences over how to deal with a future consumption tax hike forced the parties in the coalition to put off a meeting of their top leaders to Thursday to decide on a final tax reform package.

The SDP also demands at least 700 billion yen in annual budgetary funding allocations for welfare purposes if the tax rate is raised to 5 percent.

A tax reform package being considered by the coalition would set aside 500 billion yen annually for welfare purposes from revenues from the consumption tax.

Finance Minister on Consumption Tax Rate

OW2209080294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0749 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The government may have to further raise the consumption tax rate if concrete actions are not taken for administrative and fiscal overhauls, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Thursday [22 September].

"It all depends on administrative and fiscal reforms," Takemura told reporters, referring to a provision agreed to earlier by the ruling parties for reviewing the timing and scale of the new 5 percent consumption tax before it is implemented.

While voicing regret that the parties failed to decide on concrete plans for administrative and fiscal reforms, Takemura said the government will have to either raise the consumption tax further or keep it at the 5 percent level, but that the possibility of lowering the tax rate hike is unlikely, especially in view of the fact that welfare spending will increase.

In a separate press meeting, Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), said the choice is whether or not to raise the tax to 6 percent.

Leaders of the three ruling parties—the SDP, the Liberal Democratic Party, and new party Sakigake [Harbinger]—agreed earlier to raise the consumption tax from the current 3 percent in April 1997 under a single legislation tied to multiyear tax cuts.

But they also agreed to include a provision to later review the timing and scale of the tax hike.

Takemura, who heads Sakigake, said the leaders also agreed to review the 2 trillion yen uniform portion of the tax cuts regarding whether or not to continue it in fiscal 1997 depending on economic trends at that time.

An agreement on the cuts worth 5.5 trillion yen in income and residential taxes calls for a two-tier method to trim 3.5 trillion yen through an overall reform in the progressive levy system and to reduce 2 trillion yen through a uniform 15 percent rate cut as an economic stimulus.

Takemura said the government intends to compile its reform package by mid-October, and voiced hope that it will pass an extraordinary Diet session, starting on Sept. 30, to become law by the year-end as Japan promised to its global trade partners.

LDP's Kato Admits U.S. Influence on Tax Hike

OW2209044594 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 3

[Text] Leaders of the ruling coalition parties met on 20 September to discuss the tax system reform. At the meeting, they decided that the lead time for tax cuts prior to raising the consumption tax should be three years. Commenting on the decision at a news conference held after the meeting, Koichi Kato, chairman of the Policy Research Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, disclosed that at the meeting Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura insisted on a three-year lead time. At the news conference, Kato also admitted that the decision was reached out of consideration for the United States, saying: "Cutting taxes and securing alternative revenues to offset the tax cuts are related to Japan-U.S. relations, and my perception is that the three-year lead time is Japan's commitment to the United States. The decision was made at the meeting out of full consideration for the commitment to the United States." As to the question of whether to insert the lead time in tax reform bills, Kato said, "No decision has been made on that."

Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the ruling Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], held a news conference on the evening of 20 September. Explaining why the SDPJ asserted at the meeting that raising the consumption tax should be dealt with separately from the tax cuts and should not be included in the tax reform bills, Kubo said: "The SDPJ's long-standing policy is against raising the consumption tax to secure financial resources to make up for a fiscal shortfall resulting from tax cuts. As for the question of whether to secure financial resources to offset the tax cuts by raising the consumption tax, a full study should be made on plans for the tax cuts and the prospects for welfare." In this way, he indicated anew that formulating a specific vision of welfare is a prerequisite for raising the consumption tax.

At the news conference, Kubo also said: "A plan is under study to review the current consumption tax rate and the period of its enforcement to prepare for a situation wherein the consumption tax needs to be raised and the pension system needs to be reviewed to draw up plans for welfare. A full study should be made on the consumption tax during the period of its enforcement, and efforts should be made to reduce the people's consumption tax burden as much as possible."

Murayama Government Adopts Tax Reform Package

OW2209120094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The Japanese Government decided Thursday [22 September] on its tax reform policy, barely crafted in time for completing all the necessary legislative procedures by the year-end as promised to Japan's global trade partners.

The decision came at an extraordinary cabinet meeting, endorsing a reform package compiled by the three ruling coalition parties—the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and new party Sakigake [Harbinger].

The centerpiece of the tax reform is an increase in the current 3 percent consumption tax to 5 percent in April 1997 under a single legislation that ties in with a multiyear 5.5 trillion yen cut in national income and local residence taxes.

But a provision is included for reviewing the timing and scale of the tax hike before it is implemented to allow the possibility of adjustment in line with welfare requirements, the effects of administrative and fiscal overhauls, and economic trends.

Likewise for the 5.5 trillion yen income and resident tax cut, the government is to reconsider whether to continue a 2 trillion yen portion in fiscal 1997, depending on economic trends.

The government will start drafting its reform package to be submitted in mid-October to an extraordinary Diet session starting Sept. 30.

If everything goes smoothly, the package is expected to pass the Diet by the year-end as promised by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the Naples summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations in July.

But the international reaction is still a concern since the tax cuts failed to comply fully with Japan's promise at the G-7 summit for a "permanent" measure in continuing the 5.5 trillion yen tax cuts already implemented as a single-year step this April.

The tax cuts will be conducted through a two-tiered method rather than the uniform 20 percent cut implemented this year—trimming 3.5 trillion yen under an overall reform in the progressive levy system as a permanent measure, and slashing another 2 trillion yen through a uniform 15 percent tax cut as an economic stimulus.

The permanent reform comprises 2.5 trillion yen mainly for broadening the 20 percent tax bracket to ease the middle-income tax burden, and 1 trillion yen to raise the minimum taxable income level.

The ruling parties engineered the two-part approach to allow a possible abolishment later of the uniform portion to limit the politically shaky tax cut to 2 percentage points, rather than the 3 points favored by the Finance Ministry.

Together with the single-year tax cuts, the government this April lowered taxes by 700 billion yen in inheritance and other taxes, thus bringing the fiscal 1994 total to 6.2 trillion yen.

On the other hand, the government succumbed to strong U.S. pressure over Japan's commitment to a three-year time lag between the already implemented tax cuts and the future hike, thus modifying the plan for a two-year interval initially included in a draft tax reform platform submitted earlier by a coalition tax project team.

Included within the new 5 percent tax, a 1 percent regional consumption tax will be established, with tax collection entrusted to the national authority for allocation of revenues to local governments.

The government estimates the new 5 percent tax to generate annual tax revenues of 4.8 trillion yen, to cover the 3.5 trillion yen tax cuts and allocate about 500 billion yen to service stopgap bonds issued for funding the permanent portion until the tax hike comes into effect.

The bonds are for redemption in 20 years.

Some 500 billion yen annually from the new tax revenues will also be used for welfare, including home-care services and nursery facilities.

As for the interim until implementation of the tax hike, the government decided to provide 100 billion yen in fiscal 1995 and 200 billion yen in fiscal 1996 for welfare from national and regional budgets.

The welfare measures were insisted on by the SDP before it would accept the single legislation of the tax cuts and hike, and came as a compromise which led to a breakthrough in the tax reform after last-ditch marathon debates through this week.

Other major points include abolishing and reviewing preferential and special measures on the consumption and other taxes.

Mondale Hails Reform Package

OW2209114494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale said Thursday [22 September] that the tax reform package agreed upon by the ruling coalition is generally positive, albeit not perfect.

Mondale made the comment when he met with Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), to exchange views on contentious bilateral talks on a new trade framework, a Keidanren official said.

Mondale told Toyoda that he hopes to see Japan and the United States reach an agreement under the framework talks that boosts imports of competitive foreign products, the official said.

Mondale denied that Washington is pressing for numerical targets to measure progress in foreign access to Japanese markets, the centerpiece of the bilateral row.

Though many U.S. trade negotiators have denied that Washington wants numerical targets, they have demanded a lookalike under the name of objective criteria.

Mondale also said he believes an agreement under the framework talks would set the stage for better overall relations, not only in economics.

However, he said it is still uncertain whether the two countries can reach agreement by the U.S.-imposed deadline of Sept. 30 for possible trade sanctions.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono is to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton and Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Washington on Thursday for more framework talks, in which government procurement of telecommunications and medical equipment, insurance, and auto and auto parts trade have priority.

'Highlights' of Reform

OW2209112994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The following are highlights of the tax reform decided Thursday [22 September] by the government.

Significance of tax reform

Comprehensive tax reform should be conducted, together with enhanced welfare programs and administrative reform, to manage the aging society with fewer children in the 21st century.

A balanced tax system among income, assets and consumption should be built up such that each income bracket shoulders an equal and impartial tax burden without excessive dependence on the middle-income bracket, which comprises the majority of the workforce.

Stable sources of revenue should be secured for the growing demand for social security and welfare assistance in the future so as not to further deteriorate the nation's fiscal circumstances.

As an economic stimulus, this year's income tax cuts should be continued into fiscal 1995 and 1996 on a similar scale as a special measure. Tax cuts in fiscal 1997, however, are subject to review provided the economy remarkably improves.

In order to promote decentralization of power, stable tax revenues for local bodies should be secured.

Alleviation of individual income tax burdens

In order to ease excessive tax burdens, especially on the middle-income bracket, the progressive levy structure should be modified as a more gentle slope so that tax rate ceilings of 10-20 percent would apply to most salaried workers throughout their lives.

The minimum taxable income should be raised in consideration of higher tax burdens on the low-income bracket as a result of the consumption tax hike.

As special tax cuts to prop up the economy, income and residence taxes are to be cut by a uniform 15 percent in fiscal 1995, with maximum limits of 50,000 yen for the former and 20,000 yen for the latter.

Consumption tax

The current 3 percent consumption tax is to be raised to 5 percent, including a newly considered local consumption tax of 1 percent, in April 1997, with the provision that the scale of the hike be reviewed before implementation in line with fiscal demand considerations for welfare, expenditure-streamlining effects from administrative and fiscal overhauls, and overall fiscal conditions.

Preferential measures in favor of smaller businesses should be closely reviewed to address public criticism of the practice of retaining sales-based taxes without delivering the revenues to government coffers. (Introduction of local consumption tax) [subhead]

A local consumption tax is to be introduced in April 1997 but with tax collection entrusted to the national tax authority.

Future study

Tax systems should be reviewed constantly to meet social and economic changes with continued studies on other possible measures such as a proposed numbering system for taxpayers, streamlining and rationalization of existing special taxation measures, revamping the corporate tax structure, formulating an ideal method of taxing pensions, and introducing a lower consumption tax rate on food and beverages among others.

Tokyo's Domestic, Foreign Agenda Previewed

OW2209043794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT 22 Sep 94

Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will face an extraordinary Diet session next week amid opposition attempts to eventually drive him from power through inauguration of a powerful parliamentary group.

To Murayama's relief, however, media polls this week showed surging popularity of his cabinet, surpassing the disapproval rating for the first time since it was inaugurated in late June.

Ten noncommunist opposition parties and groups agreed Wednesday [21 September] to merge their House of Representatives parliamentary groups Sept. 28 into one, two days prior to the opening of the Diet session.

The new group, to be called "Kaikaku (Reform)," is designed to wrest back power from Murayama's coalition made up of his Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ],the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and new party Sakigake [Harbinger].

The three ruling parties have about 300 seats in the 511-member lower house. The new opposition group, which is seeking to form a new party by the end of October, wants to secure about 190 seats.

Former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, who was replaced by the Murayama coalition, said early this month, "it should not be too late. We hope to establish the party by the end of next month at the latest."

The move to form the new party was fueled in mid-September when the opposition camp scored a landslide victory in a House of Councillors by-election in the central Japan Prefecture of Aichi.

For the Murayama administration, the defeat in the first parliamentary election since its inauguration was a serious setback in its bid to ensure political stability.

Japan has seen three new prime ministers in one year since a reformist coalition led by Morihiro Hosokawa toppled the LDP from 38 years of rule, inviting weary, suspicious eyes from leaders overseas.

The coming Diet session will mainly discuss a new electoral map for the lower house as well as tax reforms and ratification of the Uruguay Round of world trade liberalization talks agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Also to be discussed will be Japan's bid to obtain permanent membership on the UN Security Council and the dispatch of Self-Defense Force troops to Zaire to help Rwandan refugees.

Political sources said the opposition camp, riding on the crest of expanded parliamentary strength, will employ every kind of tactic possible to drive the Murayama government into a political corner.

Aides close to Murayama, the first socialist head of government in Japan in almost half a century, said he has been gaining confidence in running state affairs with rising public popularity.

A KYODO NEWS SERVICE opinion poll released this week found that nearly half the respondents to its latest survey approved of the Murayama cabinet, with the rating rising 9.1 percentage points from the previous survey in early July to 47.9 percent.

The disapproval rating, on the other hand, was down 8.6 points to 41.1 percent.

A similar poll also released this week by the mass-circulation ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper showed the approval rating of the Murayama cabinet rose 35 percent from July to 40 percent and the disapproval rating fell from 44 percent to 36 percent.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono is in the United States this and next week for talks with U.S. leaders on bilateral trade and to address the UN General Assembly.

Kono, president of the LDP, said this week he will make clear that Japan cannot play a combat role even if it becomes a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

"I will state that Japan will take part in UN peacekeeping operations within the bounds of its constitution, but not in missions involving the use of force," he said in reference to his speech to be given at the General Assembly next Tuesday.

North Korea is the only country openly opposed to Japan's permanent membership on the Security Council.

Granting Japan and Germany such status will likely be a major topic during the General Assembly session which opened Tuesday.

According to Western diplomatic sources, there is an informal consensus among UN members that the two countries should become permanent Council members.

But the General Assembly still needs to discuss ways to expand the Council while maintaining its effectiveness, the potential denial of veto powers to Japan and Germany, and campaigns by India, Brazil and some other countries to also win permanent seats on the Council, the sources said.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali visited Japan earlier this month and gave his support to Japan's efforts to win membership with veto power.

"I believe that participation of Japan as a full permanent member of the Security Council, with the right to veto like all the five permanent members, will reinforce the Security Council and reinforce the role of the Security Council," he said.

Cabinet Approves Special Diet Session

OW2209054394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0519 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama approved a plan Thursday [22 September] to convene an extraordinary Diet session Sept. 30 with its tenure still hinging on talks with the opposition camp, officials said.

The tenure will depend on the outcome of the imminent negotiations between the ruling tripartite coalition and the opposition camp, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the directors of the House of Representatives Diet Steering Committee from both the coalition and the opposition approved a proposal to have Murayama deliver his policy speech Sept. 30, Diet sources said.

The opposition demanded that the coalition agree to its proposal to secure the 80-day period for the extraordinary Diet, but the coalition stopped short of giving a clear-cut answer to this demand, the sources said.

The opposition also sought government assurances that it refrain from making it a precedent to have the premier deliver the policy speech while a foreign minister is overseas, they said.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono is now in the United States for talks with government leaders of the U.S. and other countries before an address to the UN General Assembly.

The opposition also demanded that the government ensure that no cabinet minister be allowed to miss parliamentary budget committee sessions even during their overseas trips, at least until opposition parties complete an initial round of interpellation, they added.

Government To Invite Rabin, Mubarak, Mandela

OW2109114894 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The government will invite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Japan in mid-December, and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak next March. A Foreign Ministry source said the government had already started preparatory talks with the two nations. The government views relations with Israel and Egypt as very important for promoting Japan's diplomatic policies in the Middle East since they are key players in the peace process in the region. Summit talks with the two leaders are expected to give Japan clearer picture of measures for contributing to the Middle Eastern peace process.

The two leaders were scheduled to visit Japan in April or May this year, but both of them had to cancel their trips due to confusion on the Japanese political arena, such as resignation of the then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

The source also said, the Japanese and South African Governments are finalizing a schedule for President Nelson Mandela's Tokyo visit after 1995.

Canada, France Seek To Sell UX Aircraft to Tokyo

OW2209045994 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 5

[Text] It has been learned that at a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has shown strong interest in the next-generation multi-purpose support aircraft (UX) which the Defense Agency [DA] plans to purchase from abroad next year. With regard to the purchase of the UX, the DA has tentatively decided to purchase the U.S.-built UX instead of the French-built UX or the Canadian-built version. The DA, however, has held up making a formal decision on the purchase of the U.S.-built UX after some cabinet members pointed to the "obscurity in the process of choosing the U.S.-built UX." French Prime Minister Eduard Balladur has sent a letter to Prime Minister Murayama, asking for a "fair competition." In this way, one industrial nation after another has raised its objection to "Japan's tilt toward the United States."

The UX is an aircraft that is used when commanders move. The process of choosing the UX started in the era of former coalition governments and three types—the U.S.-built Gulfstream, the French-built Falcon, and the Canadian-built Challenger—have surfaced as potential candidates for the DA's choice. The DA tentatively decided to buy the U.S.-built Gulfstream after the Murayama government came to office, but some cabinet members have raised questions about choosing the U.S.-built UX, saying, "We wonder if a decision was made from the beginning to purchase the U.S.-built UX." Therefore, the DA has held up making a formal decision on the purchase of the UX from the United States.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hashimoto stopped in Canada prior to his visit to the United States for three days, 5-7 September, to attend the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks and the quadrilateral ministerial talks. The meeting was held between the minister and the Canadian prime minister during his stop in Canada. The Canadian prime minister is said to have lavishly praised the performance of the Canadian-built Challenger during the meeting.

The prevailing view is that "Prime Minister Chretien did not directly mention the Challenger, but he clearly made statements during the meeting with the Challenger in mind," according to a source at the International Trade and Industry Ministry. The Canadian prime minister seemed so eager to sell the Canadian-built UX to Japan that he offered the minister a "trial flight" on the Canadian-built UX on his trip to the United States. The international trade and industry minister cannot get directly involved in choosing the UX, but the Canadian side appeared to have paid attention to the influence Hashimoto wields as a member of the Murayama cabinet.

Chinese Offered Cooperation for Railway Plan

OW1709010094 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 14 Sep 94 Evening Edition p 3

[By correspondent Junichi Saiki]

[Text] Beijing, 14 September—The Japan-China Association of Economy and Trade delegation (headed by Ryoichi Kawai, chairman of Komatsu Ltd.) and the State Planning Commission [SPC], which is in charge of China's economic policies, held a plenary session on the morning of 14 September. In the meeting, they exchanged views on economic issues, centering on how China operates its social market economy and the Chinese economy's present state and prospects.

In the opening speech, Keidanren [Japan Federation of Economic Organizations] Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda, who is chief adviser for the delegation, said: "The principle of long-term stability, which guarantees the growth of economy, mutual benefits, and equality, will be increasingly important from now on for economic relations between Japan and China." He then touched on the project currently under study by China to construct a high-speed train line connecting Beijing and Shanghai. Toyoda said: "The Japanese economic circles will give eager cooperation while obtaining support from the Japanese Government." He thus offered cooperation of both the Japanese private sector and the government for the project.

The high-speed train line project is one of those that China will carry out under its Ninth Five-Year Plan, which takes effect in 1996. The project's total cost is estimated at $8 billion. This project is subject to Japan's fourth yen loan program for China (effective 1996-2000). China has requested $1.2 billion for the project.

Meanwhile, explaining the current state of the Chinese economy, SPC Vice Minister Gan Ziyu predicted that China's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1994 would grow about 11 percent from the year before. In answer to anxieties expressed by the Japanese delegation over inflation in China, he said: "We have tried to control inflation through such measures as cutting down plant and equipment investments and wages as well as promoting distribution reform." In this way, he expressed confidence in China's ability to control inflation caused by rapid economic growth.

Mitsui, Mitsui Toatsu Form Malaysian Venture

942A0691A Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9 Sep 94 p 14

[Text] Mitsui and Co. and Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals have embarked on production of polyvinyl chloride resin (PVC) and vinyl chloride monomer (VCM), its raw material, jointly with Petronasu, a state-run oil company in Malaysia. They will build a large plant with annual production of 400,000 tons for VCM and 100,000 tons for PVC and establish a joint-venture company with the end of December as a goal, aiming at operation in the summer of 1997. The total amount of the investment is about 25 billion yen, and when it becomes operable, it will supply about 60 percent of Malaysia's domestic demand. Vinyl chloride is a basic material connected with living which is used in water and sewer pipes and electrical wire sheathing, and demand is increasing at an annual double-digit pace in Malaysia, which is hastening to provide infrastructures.

Besides Mitsui and Co. and Mitsui Toatsu, Petronasu and Land and General (Kuala Lumpur), a local land developer, are investing in the joint-venture company. The capital will be 7 to 8 billion yen and the Japanese, Petronasu, and Land are scheduled to make an equal investment. On the Japanese side, Mitsui and Co. will invest more than Mitsui Toatsu and is anticipated to take leadership.

The plant will be built in Kerute, Terengganu, on the central east coast of Malaysia, and the scale will be a site area of 100 hectares. Land already is acquiring the plant site. It will produce 400,000 tons of VCM annually and based on this, 100,000 tons of PVC annually. The 300,000 tons of VCM that are not consumed domestically will be exported to various neighboring Southeast

Asian countries such as Thailand and Vietnam. It will be the first time for a Southeast Asian nation to export VCM.

The plant location is adjacent to an ethylene plant which Petronasu and others currently have under construction. Since ethylene is the raw material for VCM, it will be supplied from the ethylene plant by pipeline.

The demand for PVC in Malaysia is estimated to be 120,000 tons this year, of which 60,000 tons is produced by two domestic companies and the remainder is procured by import.

In 1997 when the new plant becomes operational, a system enabling self-supply will be provided within the nation of Malaysia. Demand is rapidly increasing and there is little possibility of an oversupply even with operation of the new plant.

Mitsui and Co. is investing in one of the two domestic Malaysian companies. With the establishment of the new company, Mitsui and Co. will be involved in over 70 percent of the PVC production in Malaysia.

Agreement Signed With Singapore To Promote Ties

OW1609115494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 16 KYODO—Japan and Singapore agreed Friday [16 Sep] to further strengthen bilateral ties and promote cooperation in regional and global problems, Foreign Ministry officials said. The two sides reached the agreement in a high-level diplomatic dialogue at the Foreign Ministry.

Kishore Mahbubani, Singapore's permanent secretary for foreign affairs, headed the Singaporean delegation while Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda led the Japanese team. Kishore proposed that Japan and Singapore jointly invest in third countries such as Vietnam and India, the officials said. Kishore also told Fukuda that the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) is a loose consultative body and does not aim to confront a particular country.

Fukuda reiterated Japan's stance that the EAEC should materialize through understanding from major countries in the region, the officials said.

The two delegations agreed on the importance of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and that it should be consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), they said.

Touching on situations in Myanmar [Burma], Fukuda said Japan welcomes Myanmar's recent promotion of human rights and democracy, though progress still needs to be made. He said Japan hopes the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) will resume dialogue with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi who is under house arrest.

Russia Funds Offered for Safety of Fishing Boats

OW2209044094 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 3

[Text] It was disclosed on 20 September that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA], in unofficial negotiations, offered Russia a proposal on ensuring the safety of Japanese fishing boats operating in waters off the northern territories [Kuril Islands]. Among main points included in this proposal are: an agreement will be reached between the private sectors in Japan and Russia; and Japan will provide funds instead of paying fishing fees so that its fishing boats will be allowed to operate in waters off Kunashiri, Shikotan, and Habomai islands. While promoting working-level negotiations, the MOFA will also bring the issue to the Japan-Russia foreign ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in the United States in late September.

According to an informed source, the MOFA, with a view to protecting Japan's sovereignty over the northern territories, decided to choose a plan to conclude an agreement between the private sectors but not the governments of the two nations. It also rejected a Russian call for Japan to pay fishing fees, because paying such a fee would end up accepting Russian sovereignty over the northern territories. Although the MOFA did not indicate details of the fund plan, such as its scale, it proposed: "The funds will be spent to bring satisfactory results for Russia." Then the MOFA informed Russia of its intention to appropriate the funds to improve fishing ports and roads on the islands and maintain marine resources.

Satellite's Solar Battery Panel Develops Trouble

OW1809121294 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 3

[Text] The National Space Development Agency [NASDA] announced on 16 September that a solar battery panel on the engineering test satellite Kiku had suffered rapid deterioration in its ability to generate electrical power. The agency explained that radioactive rays from Van Allen belts were the cause for the deterioration. Kiku had to pass through Van Allen belts, which emit strong radioactive rays, after NASDA failed to change the orbit of Kiku to the planned geostationary orbit.

According to NASDA, the solar battery panel had the ability to generate about 5,800 kw of electricity when it was opened on 3 September. However, this capacity began deteriorating a few days later. On 15 September, the panel generated about 5,300 kw of electricity, 9 percent less than the original output.

According to calculations based on various data, the panel's production of electrical power will decline to 4,700 kw at the end of September and to 2,000 kw one year from now, which is the minimum supply needed to conduct the planned experiments. NASDA said it would be able to maintain the necessary minimum electricity for more than one year by cutting electricity consumption in other areas of the satellite's operations.

MITI To Aid Multimedia Software Development

OW2209044294 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] On 19 September, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] announced a policy to commission business corporations, including new venture companies, to do research and development [R&D] in the multimedia field. MITI will invite corporations to submit R&D themes, screen out about the 10 best ideas per year, and furnish 150-200 million yen to each of them, hopefully beginning in fiscal 1995.

In preparation for the age of multimedia and high-speed data processing, hardware technology is rapidly making progress. On the other hand, development of multimedia software is still premature due to high risks and investment costs in the undeveloped market.

Yet, high-technology software for the multimedia age is expected to create new business opportunities in various fields. Popularization of well-developed multimedia software is expected to improve the productivity of Japanese companies. Taking these into account, MITI has decided to positively back up the business sector to boost software development. The decision is also intended to prevent deindustrialization and to assist growing venture businesses.

In consideration of the risky nature of the software development business, MITI will not demand the return of the subsidies even in the event of a failure of the aid-receiving development project.

MITI will invite research and development themes through the Information Processing Business Association (IPA). MITI is seeking ideas like a multipurpose identification card which may be used as an insurance card and a railway pass, and a database system which searches information from a library of visual images.

Marubeni Plans To Expand Into Multimedia Business

OW2209084594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—Marubeni Corp. announced Thursday [22 September] a five-year project designed to expand into the multimedia business, particularly in cable television.

The project calls for setting up a division devoted to the multimedia business Oct. 1 and investing 100 billion yen in information-related fields over the next five years.

In the cable television business alone, Marubeni plans to put up some 20 billion yen over the next three years and to open 15 cable television stations, the giant trading house said.

Among major trading houses, Sumitomo Corp. and Itochu Corp. have been stepping up their multimedia-related business, including in cable television.

* Bureaucrats' Reaction to New Ministers Cited

942A0637A Tokyo SHUKAN JIJI in Japanese 6 Aug 94 pp 14-23

[Article by Kiyotaka Kato, Shigeru Terada, Yuzuru Sadamitsu, SHUKAN JIJI reporters: "Hot Summer Of 'LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake' Ministers Versus Bureaucrats"]

[Text] One month after the inauguration of the Murayama "Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]-Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]-Sakigake [Harbinger]" cabinet, a new round began in the heated battle between ministers and bureaucrats in Kasumigaseki, with a side glance at the political situation where an eery silence has been maintained by "summer vacation." For the five ministers and bureaucrats appearing here, was it a "choice of demon"?

Minister of Finance Masayoshi Takemura: Whether "Bureaucrat Old Boy Minister" Is Friend or Foe Will Be Brought to Question by Tax System Reform

"We just must be watchful." A complex atmosphere that was neither tense nor disconsolate enveloped the Ministry of Finance [MOF] at the moment when the LDP-SDPJ coalition regime was born and SDPJ Chairman Murayama was elected prime minister. Officers repeated "no comment" to shake off the swarming group of reporters and hurriedly left their government offices.

The "shock" of MOF bureaucrats continued further. While the names of former Prime Minister Hashimoto and SDPJ General Secretary Kubo had surfaced in the ministry, the one actually appointed was Representative Takemura of New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], who had harshly criticized MOF on the national welfare tax concept in February. Needless to say, the shock of MOF bureaucrats was amplified.

As expected, the MOF was swayed by the speeches of the new minister. First, at a press conference directly after his appointment, "(On the tax cut:) It is important to take specific measures on administrative reform as in the restructuring of a business, such as whether there is waste in expenditures, and not to suddenly choose a tax increase as a revenue source" (30 June).

Thus, his theory premised on administrative reform unfolded. In an NHK Sunday debate directly after that, he stated "(On increased taxes or a tax cut:) First, there is the choice of whether to submit them as a single law or to separate them," which can be taken as suggesting a change in policy from the "treatment of tax increases and cuts as a unit" cited by MOF, and he made the people in the office nervous.

However, such speeches soon after his appointment changed in content with time as if they were based on the inclinations of people in the office; for example, he said, "The position of separating them (tax increases and tax cuts) at the start and debating the tax increases is impossible."

It is not certain whether the finance minister has been able to retract his own opinions and start on a new track, but he certainly has caused the people in the office to sigh with relief, saying, "The minister is a bureaucrat old boy. He understands well the sad plight of finance." Takemura himself even has managed to say, "I am troubled that everyone's reports are different (from the true intent of my speeches)."

Nevertheless, that does not mean that the tense relations with MOF bureaucrats that has continued since he was appointed finance minister have been dispelled. The reconciliation work between the government and party in power concerning the national welfare tax concept was promoted very little by then Prime Minister Hosokawa, Secretary General General Ozawa of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], and MOF Administrative Vice Minister Saito, and it was placed "outside the mosquito net" regardless of the chief cabinet secretary, but it is a fact that it created discord between Takemura and MOF bureaucrats and it is obvious that it still has an effect.

Subtle changes certainly have been seen in the finance minister's speeches starting from that time, but, as the finance minister himself reveals, "When I open up the newspapers the next morning, I am surprised at the divergence (of press interview headlines)" and, taking the example of "treatment as one," interpretations by the media are still divided. It is difficult to say that the finance minister has sidled up to Vice Minister Saito and other bureaucrats and has changed the content of his speeches. He is "the big-shot politician who is at a loss about what to do." For MOF bureaucrats, Finance Minister Takemura still has such an existence. The clear identification as friend or foe will probably come after the beginning of fall when debate on tax system reform that has cooled in enthusiasm with the birth of the LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake coalition regime will reach a climax in some fashion. Until then, it seems the relationship between "the minister and people in the office" with a set distance placed between them while maintaining a subtle balance will continue.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono: "Winter Era" Whispered by His Embarking as "Leader of Doves"

"It is first necessary to create conditions to judge whether the people should be disposed to it. This problem is a little bit too big to decide without such an understanding." When Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kono stated his negative view about becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council, which can be called the earnest wish of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA], in the middle of the night on 30 June at his first press conference, the officers of the ministry who also attended let out a big sigh. Though they had realized for some time that Kono was cautious about Security Council permanent membership, the officers who heard his actual speech again received a big shock insofar as the view had spread recently that "they were nearing their earnest wish" (officer).

This was not the first time that MOFA was betrayed by Kono. At the beginning of last year when he was chief cabinet secretary, bright sparks flew between the ministry promoters and the wary Kono about participation of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] in a UN peacekeeping operation (PKO) in Mozambique.

As a result, they settled on dispatch of SDF with a "policy change" by Kono, but until that time, Kono, who considered that "PKO's are not unlimited," was completely opposed to MOFA, which advocated the necessity of a greater international contribution aiming at permanent membership in the Security Council. When asked about the atmosphere within the ministry after his appointment to foreign minister, Kono said, "It is much friendlier than when I was on the outside." The gulf between them was that big.

As to whether this picture of opposition has been eliminated with his appointment to foreign minister, the answer is no. It seems that the true state of mind of the ministry officers is that "the real fight will be from now on."

That is to say, it is because, although not to the extent of New Party Sakigake Representative Takemura who went to the MOF, Kono is next in line as "persona non grata" at MOFA. At the news of the decision to appoint Kono foreign minister, the officers, many of whom seem to be "sympathizers" with Shinseito Secretary General Ozawa whichever way you look at it, did not hide their frank discouragement, saying, "MOFA is in its winter period. I am taking summer vacation." and "A strange thing has happened."

Another of the ministry's concerns is the U.S.-Japan framework talks. There are strong voices of distrust that "This minister probably has no desire to open economic talks with the United States. I can sense an atmosphere of leaving it up to Hashimoto (minister of international trade and industry)" (officer). Interpreted favorably, it is also possible to say that Secretary of State Christopher is the counterpart of the foreign minister, and he intends to "share roles" with the minister of international trade and industry, who is the counterpart of U.S. Trade Representative Kantor, who is in charge of economic talks.

However, for MOFA, which takes great pride in finally having pinned down both the MOF and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] about the problem after a lot of trouble, Kono's position is taken as a "breach of faith." It will not be easy for Kono to show his colors while thus completely surrounded in the ministry.

On the other hand, Kono's reputation overseas has been tolerable lately. Since he only has served successively as director general of the Science and Technology Agency and chief cabinet secretary, he was not very familiar to many foreign countries, but by serving in an emergency as the substitute for Prime Minister Murayama, who collapsed at the Naples summit, his standing among the various participating countries increased all at once. Perhaps encouraged by this, he decided recently to travel with the prime minister on his visit to South Korea. It appears that in the future there will be much "three-legged diplomacy" with the prime minister.

Director General Makiko Tanaka, Science and Technology Agency: "Stable Agency" Trembles Every Day by Her Outgoing Sensibility

"I may be the cabinet wife, but I will work hard," said Director General Tanaka, the sole woman of the administration who entered the Science and Technology Agency [STA]. She has become a topic of great attention with softness not previously shown, but the strength of her core is its metal reinforcement.

It seems that has become cause to tremble for officers at the agency.

It was at a press conference soon after her appointment that she gave the strong impression of modesty. When she was late, she said, "I'm sorry for being late," and when the conference ended, she politely bowed her head saying, "Thank you," and "Thanks for your trouble."

A glimpse of Director General Tanaka's surprising personality surfaced at a conference when Japan's first woman astronaut, Chiaki Mukai, set out on her journey into space.

"I fell asleep about 0100 and had set the alarm clock, but... I did not hear it and awoke at around 0250. When I got up and looked at the television, I thought that it was very good that she had already succeeded."

For a moment, the group of reporters choked at this honest reply, but next they burst out laughing. Then on the day before having a television conversation with Mukai, she again appeared at the press club saying, "Because I will talk tomorrow with Mukai by satellite, I will be gathering news in your place. What are good questions?"

She gave a big laugh to the still dazed group of reporters, saying, "See there, it must be difficult to be in the position of being questioned. This is a pleasant feeling. At election time, all the media ask the same thing." When it comes to talk of her family, she is ecstatic.

When it comes to politician Makiko Tanaka, however, her expression changes. On the day of the first public trial of former Construction Minister Nakamura, she was asked about the political style of her father, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, and her tone suddenly became serene.

"If you ask if all of the politicians that were in the former Tanaka faction have inherited the my father's politics, I believe that there are many aspects where I cannot say yes. Instead, haven't only the negative aspects been handed down? They are completely different from my father. In short, it is an individual problem."

Along with the blur of sympathy and respect as a daughter for her deceased father, glimpses of her good balance as a politician also could be seen there. The press conference is now becoming a popular "event" as a place where the naked face of the human being, Makiko Tanaka, can be observed.

Perhaps reflecting this popularity, the office's assessment of Director General Tanaka has generally been friendly.

"From behind, there somehow is the good feeling of 'mother.' Nevertheless, she is not an ordinary lady and has a tremendous sense of being" (staff member).

"She is a great minister and fine person. She also has a good head" (officer).

It seems that her atmosphere of an average housewife, feminine mischievousness, and unpolitical-like moderation have unexpectedly produced the effect of giving peace of mind to government officials. On the other hand, however, this kind of talk can also be heard: "The content of her speeches exceeds expectations. It is making us tense" (officer).

Recently, STA has had no pending political problem to especially attract attantion, but that is the world of the civil servant. It is a fact that even first-year staff members are concerned about her "irregular speeches" as might be expected from a big shot. Some also believe that "it is a calculated performance," but if this is true, it should probably be said that she is a politician who has excelled at grasping public sentiment, inherited from her father.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto: Anxiety and Expectations of "Internal Conflict Agency" Ballooning Due to an "Able Man"

On the night of 29 June, the moment the new "LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake" regime was born with the SDPJ's Murayama as prime minister, cries of anxiety and surprise about "what in the world has happened?" (young staff member) ran through MITI. In other words, besides worry about the influence on future policy arising from the birth of the new regime, there was also a sense of crisis about the restoration to political power of the LDP, which had tenaciously pursued the personnel change problems of MITI in budget deliberations.

The next day, 30 June, in the formation of the cabinet, it was decided to appoint as minister of international trade and industry, Hashimoto, who had served as chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council. According to MITI sources, as soon as Administrative Vice Minister

Kumano got wind of Hashimoto's appointment as minister of international trade and industry, he paid a visit to the Prime Minister's Official Residence and discussed MITI personnel changes at the very first.

Directly after that, Minister of International Trade and Industry Hashimoto, who had his first press conference after his appointment at the Prime Minister's Official Residence, talked about the trouble in personnel changes, such as the issue of the dismissal of previous Director Naito of the Industrial Policy Bureau at the end of last year, and expressed his thought that the past would not be questioned, "I don't want to talk of the past. I expect that the office workers at MITI will recover their sense of unity." Moreover, when several cabinet members complained at the first cabinet social gathering after a cabinet meeting about the administrative vice ministers remaining in office at both MITI and MOF, Hashimoto stated, "If my opinion is sought (by politicians about government office personnel changes), I will say it, but ultimately, the opinion of the one with authority over personnel changes should have priority," and ended it then and there.

The assessment of the new minister within the ministry after this series of speeches by the minister directly after his appointment has been, "He has a great wealth of administrative experience and has his own position" (Administrative Vice Minister Kumano).

"He is a long-time, big-shot minister" (officer).

"He is an able man with "policy expertise." He has a sharp mind" (principal division head).

Voices of welcome are heard for the time being. Moreover, in departments and bureaus embracing trade, such as the U.S.-Japan framework talks, there are high expectations that "it will be different from before and easy to do because he is widely known. Insofar as he has been chairman of the (LDP) Policy Research Council, he skillfully grasps the vital points" (principal division head).

On the other hand, however, regarding his response to personnel change problems at the cabinet social gathering, there also are the views that: "He gained a favor. The vice minister has been completely seized by the neck" (principal officer).

"Insofar as he has "policy expertise," it is inexcusable to be noncommittal. He handled it badly" (different officer).

Opinions about the new minister are extremely complex.

The tasks embraced by MITI continue to be many, such as a decision on the course of new policy for next fiscal year, the budget request to MOF, and the U.S.-Japan framework talks, which are having rough sledding. Moreover, it seems that the uproar within the ministry about personnel change disputes which began with the "mysterious document fracas" in the summer of 1993 and developed into the issue of the dismissal of Director Naito has not completely subsided and there is also speculation that there will again be officer transfers by the end of the year.

In the midst of this, the real situation is that "It cannot be said that the centripetal force is very high for the vice minister (who is the person with highest responsibility among the office people)," and voices worried about the course of the future can also be heard. "Expectations" and "anxiety" are mixed half and half because Hashimoto is an able man and a big-shot minister.

Nervousness About "Japan Postal Workers' Union Fighter" Whose Real Feelings Are Emotionally Expressed Quickly: Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Shun Oide

For the first time since the beginning of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications [MPT], a minister coming from the SDPJ and the Japan Postal Workers' Union has appeared, and the ministry is inwardly nervous. For the time being, calm has continued on the surface because there have been no pending problems worth mentioning. However, next year will be the 10th year since NTT privatization. Along with this, a management configuration review is scheduled to be performed and it is anticipated that new Minister Oide in the faction opposing division and the MPT in the faction promoting division will be in direct opposition and it seems that they will face a grim situation.

On the morning of the day that the cabinet was formed, when the news was transmitted to the government office that "it seems somehow that the minister will now be Oide of the SDPJ," the officers found nothing to say and, when the fact was confirmed, they were uniformly silent.

New Minister Oide started as a mailman of the Tsurumi Post Office in Kanagawa Prefecture, but there was confidence in his ability and he passed the Communications Government Service Training Institute, called the forerunner of the current Posts and Communications University, breaking through the barrier of being the only one from the prefecture.

"He has done savings and insurance solicitation, his record in insurance is good, and he was commended by Ueno Seiyoken," (said minister) and he was regarded as a future officer.

However, after the war he became devoted to the union movement. Beginning as head of the Tsurumi branch of the Japan Postal Workers' Union, he successively served in important posts such as general secretary and vice chairman of the Central Headquarters, Japan Postal Workers' Union, and vice chairman of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan [Sohyo]. He ran as a candidate from his home of Kanagawa Prefecture in the 1963 general election and won his first election. Thereafter, he demonstrated controversy in the Budget Committee and took on the nickname of the "stop man" because he frequently interrupted deliberations.

Officers of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications who confront this are showing fear of Oide who was "just a person with distinguished service in union measures" and was a "warrior." Right at the present time, labor-management relations are not "washing blood with blood" like at one time, but nevertheless, a subtle part remains. In summer 1993, when the coalition party in power was formed, a minister from Komeito was carried with even balance between the Japan Postal Workers' Union of the SDPJ and the All-Japan Postal Labor Union of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] and it has continued for two generations since then.

Be that as it may, it has been the bureaucrats who have tactfully handled it. Without alluding at all to the circumstances and expectations with unions so far, they have praised him, saying, "Insofar as he has come from the Training Institute, he understands systematically the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. He is quick to grasp the explanations of those in charge."

The Japan Postal Workers' Union is another interested party. While being a powerful labor union supporting the SDPJ, it is critical of this LDP-SDPJ coalition regime, saying that "It is different from our expectations and plans." However, they cheer as "a welcome appointment" the new "old boy" minister.

"Actually, he studies very hard, and he is a person with good memory. He actually knows well the government offices, perhaps as a consequence of having served as secretary general of the Government and Public Workers' Union."

"He stopped deliberations of the Budget Committee many times in the era as an opposition party, and this seems possible, but is not something that can be done easily. It is possible because he pursued by thorough investigation beforehand foreign affairs and defense on a broad scope," SDPJ sources say unanimously.

The management configuration review of NTT is approaching next year and the MPT was completely defeated by NTT in the the change of president this year that was the preliminary skirmish. Touching on this problem has become taboo and luck would have it that Oide emotionally expressed his true feelings at a press conference after his appointment, saying, "I have been inherently opposed to division. I will not change after becoming minister." The hot summer has begun for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

* Experts Discuss Tank Development Issues

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[Roundtable discussion by Shinsuke Amano, Itsuro Nakatomi, Mitsumasa Masutani, Sokumichi Arizono, Koichiro Nomura, Koji Nemoto, Yasuo Imai: "Status and Prospects for Technical Research and Development (R&D) of a Japanese Tank"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Imai] A very large number of individuals in the government and private sectors have been involved with and have contributed to postwar technical development of combat tanks, but today I would like to have representatives of each technical sector gathered here to participate in a roundtable discussion. First, I would like to have you discuss the events involving the R&D of postwar combat tanks, specifically the chain of events involved in R&D as well as the history covering progress and evolution over three generations. At this point, I would like to ask Nakatomi to provide us with an overall picture from the standpoint of the individual in charge of integrating tank systems.

[Nakatomi] When we embarked on the project to build a prototype for the Type 61 tank, the Ground Self-Defense Force [GSDF] was using M4A3 and M24 tanks furnished by the U.S. Army. These tanks supplied under grant aid programs in many respects were not built for compatibility with the physical build of the average Japanese. As an example, when operating the tank, if the operator had his head outside of the hatch, he could not reach the accelerator or clutch pedals from a sitting position and was forced to operate the tank in a standing position, placing him in a very difficult situation. Such circumstances caused the users to voice a strong desire for development of a tank which was compatible with Japanese physical features and geographical terrain. On the other hand, industry was in the throes of a postwar recovery and the military industry had been completely dismantled, but so-called Korean procurement actions led to contracts for rebuilding U.S. Army tanks and armored vehicles and a chance to learn about U.S. Army weapons technology. Such circumstances led to the commencement of work on a prototype of the Type 61 tank in 1955 and formal adaptation of the tank into the military system six years later in 1961. Next, when R&D on the Type 74 tank began in 1964, the development environment had changed completely from the time the Type 61 was developed, because industry as a whole had become prosperous and the debate on R&D had heated up domestically and internationally. Finally, when R&D on the Type 90 tank was initiated in 1977, R&D efforts by corporations in general were very active in that Japanese industry had grown significantly, its manufacturing technology had reached a top-level position on a international basis, and its electronics technology, especially in the semiconductor field, had become part of the top group internationally. Each of the three generations of tanks was developed under technical environments of the nature just explained. Special characteristics of tanks of each generation included: The Type 61 tank was the result of overcoming a vacuum in weapons technology in the postwar period and successful development of a tank within a short period. The Type 74 tank was a typically Japanese-type tank containing many Japanese-originated ideas. The Type 90 tank can be called a first-class tank that is equal to any tank made by leading nations of the world.

I will describe some special characteristics of the Type 74 tank. The first feature is the hydropneumatic suspension system including the attitude controls which make the vehicle excellent for operation over rugged Japanese terrain. Moreover, the vertical variability of the road wheel positions is such that it provides superior suspension capabilities. On the other hand, leading-edge technology of the times included gun-control and targeting devices comprised of computerized laser range finders, fire-control systems, and gun stabilization systems. Further, use of an electrically powered gun turret was later appraised highly by foreign sources as an example of foresight when the fourth Middle East war demonstrated that hydraulics-driven tank turrets were susceptible to fire.

The Type 90 tank is characterized by the fact that, with the exception of the turretless Swedish Stridsvagn (S-type) tank, it is the first tank in the Western arsenal to achieve manpower savings by reducing the crew to three. One factor that made the manpower savings possible is the development of an ammunition autoloader. World-ranking technology included a laser and thermal-guided gun and turret controls and an automatic target tracking system using a thermal image display controlled through a tank commander's targeting periscope attached to the top of the turret in an independently rotatable mode. These features enabled the tank to achieve high-precision, mobile firing, and enhanced the tanks capabilities to respond rapidly to multiple targets. Further, proprietary technology was used on the composite armor, including steel and ceramics with superior projectile-resistant qualities. The tank is equipped with a 120-mm tank gun, weighs 50 gross tons, is powered by a 1,500-horsepower engine, and has a 30-horsepower-per-ton power-to-weight ratio, providing evidence of a world-class tank.

From T-Square to Computer-Aided Design (CAD)

[Imai] Next, I ask that Nomura address the history of tank manufacturing by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

[Nomura] If we look back at history from the manufacturing side, we note that there were some prewar technicians employed in the factories when the Type 61 tank program was initiated, and I believe good use was made of their experience and knowledge. It was not too long after the war and the Type 61 tank was manufactured under conditions that were incomparably meager in comparison with today in terms of materials, parts, machine tools, testing equipment, and general facilities, which make one fully appreciate the difficulties which our predecessors faced in those days. I understand that design work involved the use of blueprints and slide rules. When compared with subsequent generation vehicles, early vehicles give the impression that they are very rugged, but such comparisons are probably based on experience accumulated before and during World War II, but it was a time when there were many uncertainties about to material quality and strength analysis relied on the slide rule, leaving the potential for many inadequacies. The development period for the Type 74 tank was in the high economic growth period of 1960-1965 and also coincided with the advent of the motorization of Japan. I believe that its coinciding with such a period and the support from the automotive industry provided for increased availability of diverse options for materials and parts, making it comparatively easier to build tanks than was the case for the Type 61. However, taking bearings as an example, the variety was limited and any heavy-load-sustaining bearing such as those used on a tank required special procurement action. I imagine much progress had not been made even in terms of manufacturing facilities. However, design functions moved from the T-square to the mechanical drafter, just as calculators have changed from the hand-operated version to Tiger calculators and large-scale relay calculators, and on to the supercomputers, enabling the performance of strength analysis based on the finite element method.

During the developmental stage of the Type 90 tank, Japan reached the status of a world-class automobile manufacturer and industrialized nation and was not lacking in materials, parts, machine tools, or fabrication technology. Further, I believe our development activities were performed very efficiently because testing facilities were greatly improved in both the government and the private sector. Designers were equipped with miniature high-performance desktop computers, engineer work stations, and computer-aided design capabilities, enabling them to utilize such equipment and perform developmental work under favorable conditions. A look at the development of tanks indicates an evolution from mechanics to hydraulics and from hydraulics to electronics.

[Imai] Arizono, do you have any information that you can share to augment the presentation thus far in the area of fire power and armor?

[Arizono] As you are aware, the bore of the main gun on the tanks went from 90-mm to 105-mm to 120-mm, and the Type 90 tank carries a smoothbore barrel rather than a rifled barrel. Ammunition includes armor-piercing projectiles, antitank howitzer shells, and adhesive [high explosive plastic (HEP)] howitzer shells, but the principal ammunition is armor-piercing projectiles and antitank howitzer shells. Major changes have taken place in the design of armor-piercing projectiles: The Type 61 tank used projectiles and gun barrels of the same diameter, and the Type 74 tank used projectiles that were smaller in diameter than the gun barrels from which they were launched. Doing so lifted the energy available per basic surface measurement of the projectile and enabled a significant enhancement of its destructive power. Further, with the Type 90 tank, the length versus diameter ratio of the projectile exceeded 20, depriving it of the capability to retain stability in flight and requiring the use of fins and the need to use smoothbore barrels. Further, the destructive power of antitank howitzer shells and adhesive howitzer shells is related to the quantity of explosives, meaning that a larger bore will result in more destructive power. In the case of armor-piercing projectiles, any enhancement in the bore, quality, size, and speed of the projectile will increase its destructive power. However, destructive power will differ significantly based on the shape, internal materials, and length and diameter of the projectile, thus rendering it impossible to make a comparison based on kinetic energy, but the core of the armor-piercing, fin-stabilized, discarding sabot (APFSDS) projectile on the Type 90 tank is packed with a high-density tungsten alloy, translating into improvements in the round's core material commensurate with expansion in the length and diameter ratio and significant improvements in its destructive power.

[Nemoto] Certainly, the "muzzle energy of a projectile" from the standpoint of evaluating the penetrating power of kinetic energy (KE) projectiles differs for each of the three types explained by Arizono and cannot be used for evaluation purposes because of differences in the penetration mechanism, but I believe there are characteristics which can be viewed for the purpose of examining the size of the guns. In terms of muzzle energy, the Type 61 tank carries 4.5 megajoule, the Type 74 5.5 megajoule, and the Type 90 10 megajoule, with little difference between the Type 61 and Type 74 muzzle energy, but the initial speeds of 900 m/s [meters per second] and 1500 m/s differ vastly. The Type 90 tank's initial speed is about 10 percent greater, but the muzzle energy is just below two times greater.

[Imai] What data do you have on armor?

[Arizono] Significant evolution can be noted in the area of armor between the Types 61, 74, and 90. Projectile-resistant steel and projectile-resistant cast steel were used on the Types 61 and 74, but composite armor consisting of improved projectile-resistant steel and application of ceramic material in critical areas of the tank body were used on the Type 90, which provided significant improvements in projectile resistance.

[Imai] I have heard that Mitsubishi Steel and Japan Steel, which had wartime experience in manufacturing projectile-resistant steel, have used that experience in the postwar period. Of special note is that they have made good use of their prewar experience in the areas of ingredients, the important process of heat treatment to produce rigidity and tensile strength, and heat treatment to minimize distortions. Next, can Amano comment on mobility?

[Amano] Mobility is roughly expressed by power-to-weight ratio and is 16 horsepower per ton for the Type 61, 19 horsepower per ton for the Type 74, and 30 horsepower per ton for the Type 90, ranking first-class for each of the tank generations. A look at the vertical travel of suspension systems, which has a major impact on the cross-country speed of a tank, indicates the Type 61 carried a torsion-type suspension with a travel of 190 mm, the Type 74 had a hydropneumatic suspension with a travel of 450 mm, and the Type 90 has a hybrid hydropneumatic and torsion bar type of suspension with a travel of 500 mm. It seems that the Type 61 could not attain world-class travel of 300 mm for its time because of material deficiencies. However, travel on the Type 74 exceeded world-class travel of 400 mm. Otherwise, speed and steering control mechanisms changed from the manual mechanical transmission and dual differential steering mechanism on the Type 61 to the torque converter automatic transmission and pneumatic/hydraulic steering mechanism on the Type 90, thus achieving world-class status. Operating a tank is now about as easy as operating a standard passenger car.

[Imai] Attaining a model change in 15-year cycles over a period of 30 years for three tank models translated into significant performance improvements over a fairly short time, but a considerable amount of hard work by those involved. What are your thoughts in this respect?

[Nakatomi] During the R&D phase for the Type 74, we experienced frequent breakdowns in connection with transitions from the partial prototype to complete prototype phase and causal research and solution development often involved late night or all-night efforts, which reminds me of the times when we would rub our eyes and prod each other to keep ourselves dedicated to the job. In the final stages of developmental work, government and private-sector representatives joined forces, and I am convinced our hard work resulted in the production of a tank with rare breakdowns and high reliability. The process of encountering breakdowns, subsequent causal research, and development of solutions led to the accumulation of valuable know-how that has served a useful role in enabling the efficient implementation of subsequent R&D work. We also faced a number of issues about budgets. We faced a formidable task even in the preparation of budget materials because we did not have the copying machine capabilities that exist today. And, in implementing budgets, we were unable to make sufficient allocations to the respective research centers for technical tests, especially travel in connection with tests, and we still regret the fact that we imposed considerable difficulties in this respect. Next, I will address measuring instruments and materials, but in those days we were very limited in terms of measuring instruments that could be loaded and used on tanks. Because of that, we were unable to gather satisfactory data despite the difficulties we faced. This situation changed significantly during the Type 90 tank days with the availability of tank-mounted data measurement and analytical equipment and improvements in dynamometers. There is no mistaking the fact that know-how accumulated through the earlier stated causal research and solution development for breakdowns and progress in test and evaluation technology, including development of a variety of measuring devices, has made a major contribution to the efficient performance of subsequent R&D.

[Nemoto] When the Type 61 was made, I believe the M47 and M48 were used as guides. In that respect, I imagine the availability of various data and information was limited. A look at the design materials of that time indicates that they may have had quite a few difficulties. The materials used on the gun for the Type 61 appear to have posed some problems in the area of tensile and other qualities, but although not substantial, they are of somewhat better quality than that used on the Type 74. I think we can say that much difficulty was experienced in the R&D of gun steel in completing work on the tank gun in such a short period. The gun barrel on the Type 74 and Type 90 was finalized after the acquisition of technology, but separately the gun for the Type 74 was researched and developed together with a field artillery piece, involved the acquisition of reference materials, and used current manufacturing technology. I believe such an approach enhanced the determination of those who had previously faced difficulties in tank development work. However, development and prototyping of the Type 90 was altered in midstream from domestic development to the use of foreign-based licensed technology, and the research and prototyping of the first domestic tank gun and ammunition posed a series of difficulties, imposing considerable shock on young technicians.

[Imai] Can we hear some comments from Masutani, who for some time has been engaged in the development of night-vision equipment as well as optoelectronic equipment?

[Masutani] My involvement with tanks has extended over many years, starting in 1962, and I can tell a number of hardship tales. Moreover, my involvement has been dedicated to nighttime devices, that is, optical equipment mounted on tanks, such as nighttime firing systems, nighttime tank operating systems, and laser range-finders. I will cover nighttime firing systems first. The Type 61 was equipped with a night-vision tube, capable of sensing objects in the near-infrared light zone, to view the target, illuminated with a floodlight covered with a filter which passes only infrared light coupled with a large two-kilowatt tungsten search light. The Type 74 tank is equipped with floodlights with xenon lamps instead of tungsten lamps and, initially, the floodlight filter measured 60 cm in diameter and broke easily from the shock or air blast each time the gun was fired. As a solution, we first sectionalized the filter into four parts and used crosspieces for reinforcement and even tried other methods, but finally settled for the venetian-blind-style filter used on the current Type 74. We encountered much difficulty with this filter in that any attempt to completely cut off visible rays adversely affected the efficiency of the infrared floodlight. Initially, we had much difficulty in achieving the performance demanded in terms of "No visibility with the naked eye," and everything looked red. Thus, out of desperation, we even discussed reasoning such as found in the statement, "Even if we can see the rays with black Japanese eyes, foreigners with blue eyes cannot see the rays because they have the special characteristic of a different wave length (laugh). Moreover, in the autumn, bugs would creep into the flood light during tests to the extent that you could dig them out by the scoop full.

Night-vision range finders were integrated into fire control systems (FCS) beginning with the Type 90 and night vision equipment were converted to thermal imaging systems of a passive type which used the infrared rays emitted from the opposing target and provided for a substantial improvement in visible range. A most difficult aspect in developing the thermal imaging system was that the night-vision system would absorb excessive infrared rays from the pyrotechnics emitted from a gun muzzle at the time of firing and momentarily produce a blinding effect. As a solution, we devised a shutter system to close the eye of the system upon firing and to open the eye immediately before the projectile hit the target, but we encountered much difficulty in incorporating it into the optical system because it was after the basic system had been developed.

Night-vision operating systems for the Types 61 and 74 were based on models obtained through technical aid from the United States and consisted of the periscope-type hanging from the hatch above the driver's head, but this format was not very highly rated because it would cause a great degree of fatigue after 30 minutes of driving. However, when the tank was operated over roads on maneuver grounds at speeds of 40 kph [kilometers per hour], fellow riders without night-vision systems felt insecure and even terrified (laugh). The night-vision system on the Type 90 was designed so that an enlarged florescent image is visible from a slightly reclining and detached position.

Laser range finders were not in existence when the Type 61 was made, but the Type 74 was equipped with the ruby laser type and the Type 90 was equipped with the YAG laser type. In any event, I was given the opportunity to learn about night-vision systems through involvement with tanks.

Technical Innovation Enabling Reduction of Crew from Four to Three

[Imai] As explained in the discussion so far, efforts over the years by all concerned have resulted in the birth of the Type 90, a world-class tank, but can someone explain the background which enabled such an achievement?

[Nakatomi] I believe the achievement was possible primarily because of advances made in our nation's industrial technology, especially in terms of private-sector technology. Specifically, we had reached the top level even among the advanced industrialized nations in electronics technology especially in the areas of high-density semiconductor technology and optoelectronic technology necessary to establish production technology to produce high-quality products, automation, manpower reductions, and high-precision manufacturing and in materials technology, all components necessary to build a tank. Needless to say, in the process of tank R&D work, much difficulty was encountered in converting such technology to military use. In that respect, the know how accumulated in the R&D and production of the Types 61 and 74 has been unmistakably of great value. This factor also applies to the development of the ammunition autoloader which enabled the reduction of the crew of the Type 90 to three. In fact, we imposed greatly on the concerned project personnel and had them redesign certain features repeatedly, aware of the fact that the success or failure of work on the ammunition autoloader would determine the ability to reduce the crew to three.

[Imai] Are you saying that tests were repeated many times to determine the reliability of the ammunition autoloader?

[Nomura] Yes. We faced many problems in attaining compatibility between ammunition, gun, and autoloader. During the development process, we effected changes in the autoloader design and redesigned the ammunition to improve rigidity in order to attain compatibility. We needed to modify the ammunition because it was not originally designed for handling with a mechanical loading system.

[Imai] Next, I would like to move the discussion on to future trends. I am interested in the direction to be assumed by future domestic tank technology.

[Nakatomi] I would like to first discuss the overall future trend for tanks. First, hope will be placed on small, lightweight, high-performance tanks. Realization of this objective will call for a bold change in concepts concerning shape. As an example, there is the idea that calls for shaping the exterior like an artillery piece, but that approach will require resolution of the difficult question of ways to preserve viewing capabilities. The second concept addresses the idea of reducing manpower requirements. Our nation holds the record of having led the Western nations in reducing tank crews to three and we should probably pursue the possibility of reducing the crew to two or less, but such a change will require consideration of technical matters as well as a review of how to organize the crew to operate the tank at a reduced level. The third consideration is that additional progress will be made in the electronics and artificial intelligence areas. We will most likely see progress towards a reduction in the task load of the tank commander and crew through the use of automatic and integrated controls to provide for timely, appropriate coordination of tank functions and performance as well as the feasibility of integrated control systems using electronics and artificial intelligence to attain rapid and optimum combat performance of not only a single tank, but a group of tanks, or even a combined combat team. We can say that petronics (vehicle-electronics technology) will play a central role under such a system. Further, although to be expected, there is the need to attain operational use of wired or wireless communications devices which are resistant to static, durable, and capable of rapid and accurate handling of a high volume of information to provide communication between tanks and command centers. Such systems will not only contribute to the efficient performance of combat missions, but should play a major role in preventing casualties among friendly forces as a result of errors by friendly units, such as seen during the Gulf war.

[Imai] I think we can say that we have reached the limit in terms of total weight. As our discussion has shown thus far, we need to consider a variety of factors such as weight, fire power, armor, and mobility and to effect trade-offs in accordance with the mission objective of specific tanks. Thus, we need to complete concept design work initially and then decide how much weight will be allocated for each factor. A look at past R&D efforts indicates a tendency to first decide on the performance for each factor and to disregard the overweight situation in an effort to accommodate all factors. We need to approach tank projects from an integrated system concept. A major issue in tank development will be the adaptation of lightweight materials for each component. R&D personnel must give early consideration to the needs of the tank crew and arrive at a decision on goals to be achieved in the developmental effort.

[Nakatomi] You are right in every respect.

[Masutani] I believe the building of a concept is a formidable task. We have learned from testing that an increase in armor means an increase in weight as well as an increase in horsepower, which in turn means that detection of the tank by the enemy through the use of infrared systems provides for a very large target. I think that NATO's estimate of tank versus helicopter combat ratio of 16 to one was based on the theory that the outcome of a battle will depend on who detects who first.

Early Detection, Early Strike

[Nomura] I believe that so-called tanks for the near future should immediately incorporate ideas based on lessons learned from the Gulf war which are applicable to this country. Those ideas should include technology which we would like to apply immediately such as antihelicopter technology including stealth, antihelicopter armor, layouts accommodative of enhanced survivability for the crews, devices to distinguish enemy and friendly forces for nighttime combat, and position location systems.

[Amano] If we were to epitomize the lessons learned from the Gulf war, victory in tank warfare, though perfectly logical, depends on detecting and striking the opponent first. Accordingly, it will become important to make increased use of future progress in electronics to more than adequately enhance the tank's basic capabilities in the area of fire power, armor, and mobility at the individual tank to unit levels on an integrated basis. In other words, I am speaking of the direction in which we attain integrated electronic control over surveillance, identification, command and control, intelligence and communications which are functions necessary in combat. It appears that components affecting mobility will be converted to electronic controls. I believe manpower savings will be achieved by miniaturization and enhancing the efficiency of component systems.

[Masutani] After the Gulf war, the United States modified the M1 to an M1A2 configuration. It appears that a variety of research is being conducted on systems to distinguish between friendly forces and the enemy. Near the end of the Gulf war, laser diode systems were installed on tanks to provide special lighting for detection with night-vision systems to distinguish friendly tanks from enemy tanks. This retrofitted system was installed under the premise that the enemy did not have night-vision systems, while current M1A2's are equipped with combat zone management systems with liquid crystal display maps focusing on the ability to capture and manage friendly tank positions through data communication systems encompassing the global positioning system (GPS) and the position location reporting system (PLRS).

[Amano] The United States is contemplating the installation of an inter-vehicle information system (IVIS) on equipment such as tanks, Bradley armored vehicles, and helicopters. During the Gulf war, the United States launched the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) which detected and maintained surveillance over movements of enemy ground forces and transmitted applicable information to friendly air and ground units so that they could deploy on a timely and accurate basis, leading to ultimate Gulf war victory. IVIS is believed to serve the purpose of enhancing the speed and accuracy of JSTARS. Further, PLRS and accurate information have enabled high-speed mobility beyond that expected by opposing forces which are akin to surprise attacks. I believe use of these systems has demonstrated the importance of mobility such as smooth movements over rough terrain, overcoming obstacles, and movements over long distances.

[Imai] Carl Oskoyan, an employee of General Dynamics, published an article in DEFENSE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL which reported that attack capabilities were enhanced by 54 percent when the M1A1 was modified to the M1A2 and that its armor was concurrently improved by 100 percent. Those facts should provide us with some sense of what we should emphasize in our lessons learned from the Gulf war experience. The article also stated that the M1A1 was able to attack out of range.

[Amano] I can see where that may be possible with a tank equipped with guns in a place like a desert where you can see for long distances, but I wonder if that would the case in rough terrain such as Japan described by Nakatomi earlier in the discussion.

[Nakatomi] I don't believe the main mission of a tank is to engage in a battle out of range of the enemy. Needless to say, it would be desirable to attack the enemy from a position that is out of range for him, but I believe the main mission of a tank is to visualize the ability to engage effectively in combat at a very close range.

[Amano] I guess we are speaking of first to detect and first to attack.

[Nemoto] As the enemy's armor becomes more durable, the friendly forces must think in terms of increasing the penetrating, destructive power of their projectiles. Several years back, the United States, Germany, France, and Britain joined in an effort to research and develop a successor gun to the current 120-mm tank gun and had made some progress, but the program seems to have been toned down considerably because of changes in the world situation. In the event the new gun were to be developed, in terms of fire power expressed in "ammunition muzzle energy" language, it would require about twice the fire power of the current 120-mm gun, or 20 megajoules. It appears that the Firing System Tank-3 (FST-3) has been established as the target, but within the context of Amano's statement calling for "first to detect and first to attack" capabilities, we should seek reduction in weight and miniaturization and pursue, as a major issue, the coordination of the mutual dependence factors of gun and projectile to realize an increase in the penetrating, destructive power of the latter.

[Imai] One factor we could consider is to shorten reaction time through the use of petronics.

[Amano] According to an article on the Gulf war published in the magazine GUNJI KENKYU, when a U.S. Army tank company was taking a break in a circular battle formation and heard sounds of enemy tanks, the U.S. commander ordered the unit personnel to mount all 13 tanks, form a line formation, and begin firing. The story goes on to mention that the U.S. unit was equipped with superior night-vision systems, was able to detect enemy targets sooner, begin shooting sooner, and it attained complete victory over the enemy.

[Nakatomi] It is only logical that the quality of immediate response is emphasized relative to tank firings, but setting aside the case where a unit taking a break responds to enemy movements just mentioned by Amano, it is appropriate to figure that when tanks of two opposing forces confront each other in battle formation that the outcome of the battle will be determined as early as within a few seconds or at the latest within 10 seconds of the discovery of the opposing targets. Accordingly, an important factor in determining the outcome of the battle is the speed with which friendly forces can detect enemy forces. This may be superfluous, but the execution of the procedure involving target detection, aiming, and firing must be fast and accurate.

[Amano] If an attempt is made to deal with multiple targets, there is the risk that firing from the flank may result in a retaliatory hit from the enemy, since a tank is equipped with only one main gun. Thus, the ideal posture would call for hitting the target with the first round, coupled with rapid fire capabilities.

[Nakatomi] Needless to say, we should strive to hit the target with the first round, but there's always the possibility that it will miss. In such circumstances, future projectiles will be faster and it may be very difficult for the gunner to verify that the projectile has reached its target, which means there will be a need for systems that confirm projectile arrival at destination and provide for modification of projectile course of travel. What is the possibility that such systems will be a reality in the near future?

[Masutani] I think we can say there is a possibility for such systems. When a projectile strikes metal it emits ultraviolet rays. We are currently conducting research at our laboratories on an automatic bull's eye assessment device, and we have ascertained that a relatively small sensor can perform the function at actual combat ranges.

[Nakatomi] Automatic bull's eye assessment devices seem to be effective when a projectile hits a metal object and emits ultraviolet rays, but there seems to be a need for a system that can automatically assess projectile impact point even when it misses its target.

[Masutani] If the environmental conditions are not overly unfavorable, infrared systems can ascertain the projectile path or impact point of a projectile indicated by a dust cloud.

[Amano] What do you think of following a light tracer? Would it be possible to design a system that would ascertain a bull's eye with ultraviolet rays and ascertain the impact point based on the light tracer if the projectile fails to hit the target?

[Masutani] If you watch a projectile from the rear of a tank through an infrared system, you can see it clearly even if it is not a tracer projectile. However, when you look at a projectile being fired from a tank through an infrared system, attached to the range finder with a telescope, the field of vision is limited and a slow projectile trajectory will not fall within the field of vision of an infrared system. A projectile has a tendency to form an arc in trajectory but usually falls back into the field of vision near the impact point.

[Imai] Even in that sense, I think it would be a wise idea to have the system users participate in the early stages of development work to present their requirements. In previous developmental work, there were times when the technical tests were finished, systems configuration had been solidified, and field tests would be performed just when it came time to submit final budget figures. But, then, it would be too late to make any modifications to the system. In the future, we should perform field tests in combination with technical tests with frequent feedbacks for use in systems modifications.

[Nakatomi] Yes, that's the way we should handle developmental work. But, I would like to return to the topic of future trends. I predict that developments in the area of superconductivity will have a major, multifaceted impact on future tank technology. Of special note is that I believe, if high-temperature superconductivity materials are placed into practical use, features such as electromagnetic guns, electromagnetic armor, and electrification of all systems in a tank may become reality. However, I don't see that happening until after the year 2010.

Concentration of New Technology in Future Tanks

[Arizono] In the near future, measures will be developed to enhance the performance of projectiles in terms of firing range, accuracy, and destructive power by boosting their initial speed without any change in the gun or basic features of projectiles. On the other hand, I believe we will see the appearance of new types of ammunition for use in targeting helicopters with artificial intelligence capabilities enabling them to self-correct trajectories. And, in the distant future, I think we will see electromagnetic guns, electrothermal-chemical guns, and further progress in the application of artificial intelligence to ammunition.

[Imai] When do you think we will see the operational use of electromagnetic guns and electrothermal-chemical guns?

[Arizono] I think that will happen in the first half of the 2020's. In contrast to the electromagnetic gun which requires a large electric power source because it uses electric energy to launch ammunition, the electrothermal-chemical gun depends on thermochemical reaction as a propellant, can operate with a relatively small electrical power source, and will be structurally designed in a manner similar to guns of the past, thus considered as having the potential to reach operational use earlier than the electromagnetic gun. The issue of armor relates to progress by potential enemies in enhancing their destructive factor, but performance effectiveness of composite armor will be enhanced through the application of new materials and structural improvements, while the near-term objective for reactive armor will be measures to be taken against tandem projectiles. For the distant future, conceivable is active armor plating which detects incoming projectiles to detonate them before they impact their targets. In the past, penetration analysis was performed primarily through actual firing experiments, but in recent days numerical simulation has produced a considerably high degree of reliable analysis. In the future, improvements in computer performance and development of new analytical codes could conceivably clarify the effects of a variety of factors on penetration.

[Amano] If the initial acceleration of the projectile is handled with explosives, the second phase within the gun bore where bore pressure tends to fall is handled with electric energy, or if an electrothermal gun is used to minimize recoil and maximize launching energy, it would appear that we could opt for lighter tanks. Needless to say, in that case, using an electrical propulsion system will enable sharing of a common source of energy with the gun and will offer a greater amount of freedom in the vehicle design than would be possible with a mechanical propulsion system while enabling the use of a continuously variable transmission system which will provide for more efficient use of the propulsion system. In such an approach, a compact and more powerful power source will be required, making the gas turbine a more viable option.

[Nemoto] It appears that penetrating power of the current version of APFSDS projectiles is most effective against tanks. In that case, the maximum initial speed attainable with a solid explosive propellant is 2 km/s [kilometers per second]. And, I think the maximum initial speed would be 2.5 km/s with an electrothermal gun. This means that the penetration capabilities of the two options do not differ much. If we hope to break through that barrier, it appears we need to opt for electromagnetic guns which provide for initial speeds of over 3 km/s. In that case, the projectile need not be of the reduced bore type, the gun's bore becomes smaller, and if the electrical power source becomes small, there may be the possibility of making the tank one of a light-weight category.

[Amano] In the case of guns of the past, it is said that the size of the tank and its weight were determined by the type of the main gun. As an example, if the propellant explosive weight was increased to maximize launching energy, the recoil was magnified and adversely affected the firing stability of the tank, expanded the recoil range and required a larger diameter turret ring, thus calling for a wider and longer tank body. If the weight of a recoil-type gun was increased, the tank became top-heavy, difficult to maneuver over rough terrain, and nimble movement of the gun turret became difficult. Accordingly, until the electric gun becomes operational and as long we use the current guns, design of the tank remains a very difficult issue, and as an example we may be forced into considering a tank configuration that separates the relationship between gun ring for externally mounted guns and the recoil range.

[Nemoto] Perhaps it is necessary to build a design concept as mentioned earlier by Imai. The United States has produced some design concepts. Are any of those concepts applicable to Japan?

[Nakatomi] I would say they could become viable candidates under certain conditions.

[Amano] If it becomes necessary to reduce weight to improve performance beyond that of the Type 90, as an example, we could design a smaller vehicle with more crew space by developing a smaller propulsion power source through measures such as the miniaturization of cooling systems by using ceramic material in sections of diesel engines, or we could design a light-weight tank with horizontal attitude maintenance capabilities even while traveling over rough terrain through the use of active suspension and look-ahead-control suspension systems which raise or lower chassis struts in accordance with the irregular features of the terrain. Further, if a decision is made to make the gun turret smaller, we face important questions on viewing. Technically, I would think we could provide for a 360-degree field of vision through the use of optoelectronic technology using a mast-mounted sight.

[Masutani] With present technology it is very difficult to convert into a real-time visual display a wide panorama of 120 degrees. In reality, when a crew pans the surrounding terrain, I understand it renders a situational assessment based on the topographical features or conditions of the entire area to spot suspicious sections, in view of the fact that, despite progress on neuro-network and imaging systems, mechanical systems have not reached human capabilities. When search and detect tasks must be performed on a wide scale, there is still some question as to which option is more effective and practical between the approach of equipping sensors with the capability to observe on a broad scale or the approach of manually manipulating the direction being viewed by the sensor which is known as panning. Specifically, if we use fish-eye lens optics to widen the field of vision, we merely degrade analytical capabilities and if an attempt is made to adopt the former approach without degradation of analytical capabilities, we are restricted to intermittent, static image displays such as shown on planned position intercept (PPI) radar scopes. Even if intermittent displays change at the speed of several images a second, it is debatable as to how much human beings can satisfy themselves with images which are not captured at real time. Therefore, I believe it is essential that we keep in mind that use of such static images is achieved by way of computer processing of a series of tasks such as target detection, identification, and pursuit.

[Nakatomi] Seasoned tank crews accurately seize the situation not only through the visible situation, but instantaneous collective assessment of all information acquired through kinetic as well as bodily sensation. I imagine it will be a very difficult task to produce a viewing system that would satisfy such seasoned tank operators, but it is a task that needs to be accomplished even at the cost of much effort.

[Masutani] Optical equipment is very adaptable to stepped up magnification and viewing of minute objects, but the issue is the object to be observed. We are now attempting to devise a computer processing system for topographical information which enables selective, rather than all-inclusive, viewing as part of our research on information management systems. Even in the case of sensors, it is probably difficult to equal human direct vision capabilities relative to targets with no contrast with surrounding objects after boosting visible sphere through high-vision technology, while infrared systems alone would not provide the capability to identify targets in terms of analytical capabilities.

I was exposed to a number of situations at the Hideodai Maneuver Grounds. The grounds were highly populated with grazing cattle which looked much like tanks when viewed through infrared systems, making distinction between the two quite a task (laugh). Accordingly, the future will call for the use of several sensors for mutual compensation of individual deficiencies to produce composite images. I will now make a limited presentation on U.S. projects on viewing systems which includes the Multisensor-Aided Targeting Fire Control/Target Acquisition System (MSAT-FC/TAS), a tank fire control system, which is managed by the Advanced Research Program Agency (ARPA). R&D has been handled by Hughes Aircraft since 1988 and the system appears to have undergone an operational test by the U.S. Army in 1993 with the goal of integrating automatic target detection functions and sensor devices. The basic structure of the system provides for the integration of extremely high frequency radar data into thermal imaging systems and computer classification based on target images and model target data to automatically identify targets. This image processing procedure which compares the latent target silhouette and the model silhouette supposedly produces better results in extracting targets than comparative processing based on statistical data. Further, it appears Hughes is thinking of augmenting the system with sound sensors to provide for early warning capabilities. Hughes is proposing features such as the use of a thermal imaging system with an infrared range of 8-12 microns, strict real-time imaging, simultaneous display of telescopic and wide-angle images with one optical telescopic lens, TV and laser range finders on the same panorama sight, and capability to rotate 360 degrees like a telescope.

In the area of target tracking procedures, an attempt is being made to perfect target tracking through a dual mode method that uses both the method of calculating the center of gravity of a target and the method of correlating images. Computer processing is used to determine the target type and the reliability of the process and to aid the crew in making the decision on which target to attack first. Once the system operator selects a target, the target selection is relayed to the fire control subsystem and the target capturing subsystem immediately shifts to the task of seeking other targets. Further, an attempt is being made to adopt helmet displays as part of the man-machine interface program. Reducing the task burden of tank crews through automation of target discovery and capture processes in connection with fire control systems should assist in studies of a highly realistic nature to reduce tank crews down to two and to design tanks shaped and positioned for high survivability potential.

Research of an Age Without a Model

[Imai] In the area of requests, is there anything that the private sector would like to ask of the government?

[Nomura] One request would cover the utilization of the private sector. Tank development takes more than 10 years and from a corporate perspective, there is no lacking of a feeling that this is too long. I feel that the excessive time factor is the result of budgetary restrictions and procedural issues. In this respect, we would like to see greater use made of the private sector. I believe delegation of more authority to the private sector will result in the shortening of development time and greater efficiencies. Further, with respect to development of complete systems such as a tank, we should adopt the prime contractor approach and make him responsible for the entire system. I believe that approach will provide for a balanced design, speed up of improvements, clear-cut designation of responsibility in the event problems arise, and efficient development. The approach is equally applicable to the disposition of problems and improvement actions even after a system is deployed. Further, recent discussions have taken place concerning R&D which does not lead to actual deployment, but I believe, in reality, corporations have cooperated by taking the initiative in making investments in military projects with the hope that they will ultimately lead to equipment of a deployable nature. Therefore, we would like for government to provide for adequate funding of those R&D projects which are not expected to result in deployable equipment. Lacking such an approach will make it very difficult for corporations to retain researchers and technicians. Corporations concerned would like to maintain the number of engineers necessary to develop the next-generation tank. Once engineers are separated from such programs, they will never return. We ask that adequate consideration be given to the fact that maintenance of necessary personnel will require the continuation of optimum production levels and R&D work levels.

[Nemoto] First, we should maintain a long-term vision and implement an unobstructed R&D program. Second, there is no mistaking the fact that we should assume a policy that emphasizes basic R&D of technology, but I believe R&D in the area of leading-edge basic technology should be conducted along with research of the past, because such research led the way to and will continue to surface in connection with research in leading-edge basic technology. I believe such an approach is especially applicable to weapons and ammunition. My other thoughts would pertain to methods for conducting R&D and would be applicable to tanks as well as other military equipment. There is no mistaking the fact that Japan has developed three generations of tanks, but when you look at the United States, there is the M1, the M1A1, and M1A2 and before that the M60 with a series of M60A versions. I wonder if Japan could establish an R&D system of a similar nature which provides for a continuous improvement program without intervening gaps. I believe it was a very good trend to see the development of a new 105-mm APFSDS and high-explosive antitank missile projectile (HEATMP) for the Type 74, but I feel it would be preferable to conduct technical research not on a component basis, but from a total tank system approach, and to see the application of improvements in response to operational needs.

[Nakatomi] I will initially cover requests addressed to government officials including system users, but first, in the areas of requirements for functions and performance, I would ask that they not be presented in simple list form but in a prioritized list format. Second, we should accumulate operational records of armament currently in use and build a data base so that it can be used in future R&D. Third, we should establish regulations which call for periodical major modification and improvement programs. Fourth, we should establish necessary funding so that active corporate assistance can be sought beginning at the research stage. Fifth, since we cannot rely on private-sector demand for the development of high-speed rail-based vehicle technology, I would like to see the Defense Agency, especially the GSDF, take the initiative in promoting applicable programs. Next, from a technical aspect, first, I would like to ask that new design efforts consider future modification and improvement actions. Second, we should consider the most economical designs enabling the realization of similar performance and functions. Third, we should make greater use of simulation and dynomometer testing associated with design and analytical work. Fourth, we should utilize technical inspections of prototypes and current armament to accumulate know how and build data bases. Otherwise, I would like to see joint efforts between government and private sectors in the area of R&D from the early phase of conceptual development and participation of the younger generation in R&D with a high degree of enthusiasm and tenacity. Finally, I will digress somewhat, but I would like to see the establishment of a tank museum at some future date. Further, in order to prepare for that day, I would like to see consideration given to the preservation of prototypes and related materials.

[Amano] We have addressed the topic of research that does not result in deployment, but we are engaged in R&D that ultimately results in its use in armament. I believe our nation's tank technology has attained global status. In the future, our mission will be to develop a tank which is suitable for our country without the use of a model and I believe there will be a greater need to form a team effort composed of systems users, technicians, and manufacturers. In that respect, I would like to see the manufacturers abandon their passive stance and aggressively participate and assert themselves.

[Arizono] I would like for those in attendance to be more assertive, because it appears that the private sector usually presents very few requests and opinions to the government. I believe that greater assertiveness by the civilian sector will provide for a higher degree of mutual understanding and the promotion of more efficient R&D. I would like for the private sector to strive for the maintenance and training of human resources, although this may be difficult under current adverse economic conditions. The lack of private-sector application of technology in the areas of weapons, ammunition, and armor means that if experienced personnel depart from the profession, it will be difficult to assign and maintain successor personnel. The government asks for your cooperation in maintaining and enhancing technology in these areas. Further, in the past, much research translated into immediate production of armaments, but future R&D will probably shift to that which focuses on the development of technology, which means we must alter our R&D concepts. The government is in the throes of revising its overall programs in this respect and we ask that corporations also modify their R&D efforts to envision a shift to that of technology development.

[Masutani] I have no special request to present, but I think we can summarize our nation's situation by saying that we are lacking in practical research. Even if requirements applicable to hardware exist based on operational research performed from a variety of perspectives, it is difficult to visualize how they will function or how they can fill a practical purpose. Even the United States which has the advantage of actual combat experience has implemented a number of modifications to its tanks after the Gulf war. I believe those engaged in R&D must learn from the experience garnered by foreign nations for specific and quantitative consideration in conducting their work. R&D work follows such an approach, but we must be forever vigilant in assuring that we do not neglect our work because of the atmosphere of peace pervading our nation and continue to exert greater efforts at maintaining an efficient R&D program.

[Imai] Thank you for devoting so much time to this discussion.

North Korea

Speech at 13 Sep Geneva Nuclear Meeting Viewed

SK2209081994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] On 13 September in Geneva, Switzerland, our country's chief delegate spoke at the third meeting of the preparatory committee of the fifth session for the examination of the implementation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] [haekmugi chonpabangj choyak].

In his speech, he said: The fifth session to examine the implementation of the NPT, which will be held next year, will serve as momentum as to whether to push for the realization of nuclear disarmament.

He said: The NPT, an unfair and unbalanced treaty worked out 25 years ago when the Cold War confrontation and competition for nuclear armaments was aggravated, should be revised in conformity with today's changed reality. In order to make the treaty fair—in which both the possessors and nonpossessors of nuclear weapons share equal obligations—and in order to liberate mankind from the sense of uncertainty over nuclear disaster, it is necessary to revise the treaty in conformity with the aspirations and demands of the nonpossessors of nuclear weapons.

In the treaty, it is necessary to stipulate questions which are emphatically discussed today at various disarmaments forum: a ban on deployment of nuclear weapons in other countries, open seas, and space; guarantees for the creation of nuclear-free zones; guarantees for unconditional and legally-binding promises not to use nuclear weapons; a wholesale ban on nuclear testing; and a wholesale and complete scrapping of nuclear weapons.

It is a stark reality that nuclear armaments are being earnestly pursued in various places—in particular in Northeast Asia—in spite of governmental, nongovernmental, and international efforts to ban the transfer of materials, technology, and facilities that can be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons as well as to ban the promotion of plans for nuclear weapons within one's own country.

In Northeast Asia, new fast breeder reactors and vast [word indistinct] nuclear facilities are continuously under construction. Unknown facilities, including the Taedok Complex, have been exposed as large-scale nuclear reprocessing facilities, thereby greatly shocking those at home and abroad.

The nuclear armaments Japan and the South Korean authorities have pursued are widely known to the public. It is not by chance that the international community has continued to express strong apprehensions over the nuclear plans by Japan and South Korea.

What is even graver is that in order to find an excuse to pursue their own nuclear plans, Japan and South Korea are persistently obstructing the solution of the nuclear issue while fostering and spreading suspicions over the nonexistent nuclear activities of our own country. The international community should pay due attention to these serious questions, and should intensify international monitoring of this.

The speaker made clear our country's just position regarding the nuclear issue, saying: The government of our republic has openly stated on several occasions our policy toward denuclearization and peace. We resolutely reject the unjust nuclear suspicions imposed on us. Suspicion is unscientific in itself.

We once again restate that from the beginning, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has infringed upon the sovereignty of the nonpossessors of nuclear weapons and has threatened the (?supreme) interest of a nation in the form of high-handedness [kangkwon] and pressure based on distrust [pulsim], rejecting methods of negotiation and cooperation based on trust.

No nonpossessor of nuclear weapons can accept such a (?political resolution). We have warned against the IAEA's unfairness and double standard, and (?their expanded application) on more than one or two occasions.

Since its inception, the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula has been a complicated one with a political nature.

Without its (?solution), there can be no (?termination of hostilities).

We have put forth various proposals for disarmament and denuclearization in order to fundamentally and completely solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, and have made every effort toward their realization. It is our consistent stand to oppose any pressure and high-handedness, and to seek a negotiated solution of disputes [punjaeng].

Today, the DPRK and the United States of America [mihapjungguk], the direct parties concerned in the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, have opened a horizon for a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue through several rounds of talks, setting out its implementation.

Everyone welcomes this positive development.

To continue pressuring, ignoring the essence of the nuclear issue and present developments, cannot be construed otherwise than attempts by those who want no solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, but who seek political and economic profit by fostering confrontation.

Moreover, if anyone were to attempt to find an excuse—through persistent (?denunciations) against us—for the postponement of the treaty for an indefinite period with no revision, this would be a miscalculation.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, which has set out on the road to resolution, will successfully reach its final destination.

KCNA Version of Delegate's Speech

SK2209050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 22 Sep 94

["NPT Must Be Revised To Be Equitable and Balanced One"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The head of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in his speech at the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the fifth session for the examination of the implementation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) held in Geneva on September 13 stressed that the treaty must be revised to suit the present changed realities.

If the treaty is to be made an equal one under which the nuclear nations and non-nuclear nations assume the equal obligations and is to free humankind from the fear of a nuclear holocaust, it must be revised in such a manner as to meet the aspiration and demand of the non-nuclear nations, he said, adding:

"The treaty must define the major issues discussed on the disarmament rostrum today, that is, the ban on the deployment of nuclear weapons in others' territories, open seas and space, the guarantee for the creation of nuclear-free zones, the guarantee for the unconditional non-use of nuclear weapons of legal binding, total ban on nuclear tests and comprehensive and complete nuclear dismantlement.

"It is a hard fact that nuclear armament is being stepped up on a full scale in various areas, especially in Northeast Asia, in defiance of the governmental, non-governmental and international efforts to ban the transfer of materials, technologies and facilities for the manufacture of nuclear weapons and the promotion of nuclear programs based on it in countries.

"No wonder that the international community constantly expresses deep apprehensions over the nuclear programs of Japan and South Korea.

"Still more grave is the fact that they are obstinately obstructing a solution to the nuclear issue, setting afloat rumours about the fictitious 'nuclear suspicion' against the DPRK to find a pretext for stepping up their own nuclear programs.

"We hold that the international community should pay due attention to such serious problems and intensify international supervision."

Recalling that the DPRK has put forward a number of proposals for disarmament and denuclearisation to fundamentally and completely solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and made every possible effort to put them into practice, he stated:

"It is our consistent stand to oppose any pressure or strong arm and seek a negotiated solution to disputes.

"The DPRK and the United States, which are directly responsible for the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, opened up a horizon for a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue through a series of talks and set out on its implementation.

"To continue to resort to pressure, ignoring the essence of the nuclear issue and the present developments, cannot be construed otherwise than an attempt of those who want no solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula but seek political and economic profits in fostering confrontation.

"If they try to find pretexts for extending the term of the treaty indefinitely without revision by means of persistent slanders against the DPRK, it is a mistake.

"The nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula which is running on the track to a solution will successfully arrive at its terminal."

Delegation Arrives in Geneva, Issues Statement

SK2209040794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0310 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Our country's delegation, which arrived in Geneva on 21 September to participate in the third round of the Korean-U.S. talks [chomi hoedam], has issued an arrival statement.

The statement follows:

An arrival statement issued by the DPRK delegation:

The DPRK delegation has just arrived in Geneva to participate in the second session of the third round of the Korean-U.S. talks.

This session is a continuation of the talks that were held in August.

In the previous session, the two sides of Korea and the United States [chomi] set the solution of the nuclear issue as a final goal and issued an agreed statement on this on the basis of their broad and in-depth [poknolgo kipiitke] discussions of all questions arising from the solution of the nuclear issue.

The Korean-U.S. agreement statement has largely contributed to accelerating the settlement of the nuclear issue in a productive way because it firmly provided a milestone for the ultimate solution of the issue on the Korean peninsula and has enjoyed unanimous support from the world's people.

We have been consistently faithful to the spirit of the Korean-U.S. agreed statement since the first session of the third round of the talks. We also sincerely [songuiitke] participated in the expert-level negotiations held in Pyongyang and Berlin.

Under the circumstances in which a final destination [chongchakjom] for the solution of the nuclear issue was set and a sufficient exchange of opinions was conducted in various channels of the expert-level negotiations, whether the two sides can proceed with the discussion of the issue totally depends upon their political will and determination.

Of course, it is also true that there is an anachronistic attempt by forces who do not welcome the implementation of the Korean-U.S. agreed statement, but try to block the progress of the talks. This notwithstanding, if the two sides sincerely desire positive results from the negotiations, they should not care about the (?forces) who are negative to the dialogue, but should traverse without hesitation the road that has already been chosen.

We think that this session will mainly focus on the discussion of bringing into gear [matmullinunde] the measures for simultaneous actions [tongsi haengdong chochidul] aimed at the implementation of the Korean-U.S. agreed statement.

The measures for simultaneous actions serve as the most principled and practical questions in the implementation of the agreed statement.

In accordance with all the principles and positions stated in the previous session, our delegation will make all sincere efforts to achieve a practical solution of the nuclear issue.

We expect that the United State of America [mihapjungguk] side, too, will show a due response to our active efforts.

[Issued] 21 September, 1994, Geneva

KCNA Version of Statement Reported

SK2209051694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 22 Sep 94

["'We Will Make All Efforts for Substantial Solution to Nuclear Issue,' Statement of the DPRK Delegation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make every sincere effort to achieve a substantial resolution of the nuclear issue, in accordance with the principles and position it had expressed at the last session held in August, said the delegation in a statement upon its arrival in Geneva on September 21 to participate in the second session of the third round of the talks between the DPRK and the USA.

Noting that the upcoming session is the follow-up of the third round of talks, the first session of which took place here in August, the delegation said: At the last session, the DPRK and the United States held wide-ranging and in-depth discussions on all the matters related to the resolution of the nuclear issue, and, on that basis, they established final objectives with respect to the resolution of the nuclear issue and these objectives were announced through the agreed statement.

Since the first session of the third round of talks, the DPRK has been consistently true to the spirit of the DPRK-USA agreed statement and took part with sincerity in the expert-level discussions in Pyongyang and Berlin. Now that the final destination has already been set for the resolution of the nuclear issue and adequate exchange of views took place through expert-level discussions on various aspects of the issue, whether or not both sides can make progress in their upcoming discussions depends entirely on their political will and decision.

It is true, of course, there are anachronistic attempts by those forces that feel unhappy with the implementation of the DPRK-USA agreed statement and try to block progress in these talks. But if the two sides really want their negotiations to produce a positive outcome, they should not care about all the outside attempts disfavoring the DPRK-USA talks, but should pursue, without hesitation, the course that they have already chosen.

Simultaneous steps are most principled and practical issues in the implementation of the agreed statement. The upcoming session is expected to focus on ways of fitting together simultaneous steps to be taken by both sides with a view to the implementation of the DPRK-USA agreed statement. It is hoped that the United States side will respond fully to the DPRK's active efforts.

ROK Attempts To 'Legalize' Nuclear Development

SK2209052294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 22 Sep 94

["Unpardonable Challenge"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet administration, "National Assembly," military and atomic energy institutions are now claiming "nuclear sovereignty" more heatedly, blaring that "it is time to possess nuclear arms development capacity" and "enrichment and reprocessing facilities are indispensable."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

These remarks of the South Korean rulers reveal their sinister intention to legalize their nuclear arms development which they have accelerated in secrecy under the pretext of the non-existent "nuclear suspicion" against the North.

It is nobody's secret that though the South Korean puppets joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, they have continuously pushed ahead with the nuclear arms development.

The "nuclear sovereignty" doctrine does not mean that they will begin nuclear arms development just now but that they will race headlong toward total nuclear armament under the pretext of "nuclear suspicion" against the North.

Their "nuclear sovereignty" doctrine is, in essence, a doctrine of "total nuclear armament."

Each time the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States made a progress, the Kim Yong-sam group tried to hinder the talks by hook or by crook. Even today when an agreed statement was published at the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks and it has entered the stage of implementation, it is running about in a reckless attempt to put a spoke in the wheel of the talks. In this way it seeks the ulterior purpose of keeping South Korea under outside forces' "nuclear umbrella" and going ahead with its own nuclear armament by preventing a solution to the nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula.

The Kim Yong-sam group is openly claiming "nuclear sovereignty", far from responding to the North's offer for replacing the graphite-moderated reactor program with light water reactor technology to ensure nuclear transparency and its efforts to carry it into effect with the elimination of its pressurized heavy water reactor and multi-purpose research reactor and the discontinuation of the development of the fast breeder reactor. Such a perfidious act is a downright challenge to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Kim Yong-sam's is really a group of never-to-be-condoned traitors who oppose the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and seek nuclearization and is the very one that creates a nuclear threat in the peninsula.

U.S. Urged To Implement 'All' Statement Points

SK2209102994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—Foreign organisations and figures urged the United States to implement the points of its agreed statement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a responsible manner.

Kodjo Kokou Kinbo [spelling of name as received], chairman of the Togolese Philosophy Teachers Association, In a statement on September 5 contended that the United States must unconditionally implement all the points of the DPRK-USA agreed statement.

The National Liberation War Veterans Committee of Zimbabwe in a letter to the U.S. President on September 4 said:

"If they think that they can subdue the Korean people with strength, it is a big mistake.

"We hope that the United States will sincerely implement the DPRK-USA agreed statement for the final solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and take a practical measure to remove the hostile relations between the DPRK and the United States and normalize the relations in all fields."

The Mozambican Committee for Friendship With the People of the DPRK in a letter to U.S. Congress on September 7 said that the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula wholly depends upon the United States.

"We strongly demand that the United States implement its agreed statement with the DPRK in a responsible manner, not reversing it or getting involved in the obstructive moves of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Japan and South Korea."

Japan's Ambition for UN Council Seat Opposed

SK2209070494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1223 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Real Intention Revealed"]

[Text] The Japanese reactionaries' ambition for expansion overseas has reached a grave stage. According to a report, a high-ranking Japanese official, citing the Japanese Government's position on the UN General Assembly, stated that Japan will seek the position of a permanent member state of the UN Security Council, which has veto rights. Former Japanese Prime Minister Hata Tsutomu, too, insisted that Japan should consider its participation in UN forces in the future.

Japan's ambition in its diplomatic and national defense fields revealed openly by its present and former high-ranking figures at a time when the UN General Assembly is near at hand, is a grave matter that cannot be overlooked. Even until a few days ago, the Japanese Government decided to participate in the ranks of the permanent membership states of the UN Security Council on condition that it will not participate in any military actions with the use of armed force.

Nevertheless, the Japanese Government's expression of its strong ambition to become a permanent member state of the Security Council, which has veto rights, and to join UN forces, at a time when the opening of the UN General Assembly is only two days off clearly shows that its ambition for overseas expansion has reached a grave stage.

The remarks by this Japanese high-ranking official that Japan will seek the position of a permanent member state of the Security Council, which has veto rights, clearly show the real intention of Japan, which has clamored that it should become a major political country befitting its position as a major economic country.

As everyone knows, the UN Security Council is an international organization with very important duties in ensuring peace and security in the world. In recent years, Japan has waged economic and diplomatic warfare and spent a huge amount of money in a bid to secure the position of a member state of such an international organization.

What Japan has clamored in these economic and diplomatic activities was that it would take neither military actions, nor hegemonist acts as a major country, in ensuring and maintaining peace of the world. In this way, Japan tried to soothe the deep-rooted vigilance and distrust of the Asian people. In addition, Japan also tried to create public opinion that it would wage similar activities as other UN member states and assume a fair attitude in dealing with international disputes.

However, as the opening of the UN General Assembly approaches, Japan is openly talking about participation in UN forces and exercise of the right to veto. This vividly reveals the inherent cunningness of Japan, which has the habit of reversing any remarks or promises it made at any time and without hesitation. Japan's real intention to bring up its participation in the UN forces and the right to veto of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council on the eve of the opening of the UN General Assembly is aimed at achieving its policy of aggression more rapidly and more easily by taking advantage of the position of being a permanent member state of the Security Council.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's insistence that the present Japanese Government should review the matter of participating in the UN forces in the future vividly shows how frantically Japan is running wild to achieve its overseas expansion under the signboard of the United Nations.

In fact, thus far Japan has concentrated all of its possible efforts on becoming a major military country and a major nuclear country in a bid to realize its ambition for overseas expansion. Japan has been building up its Armed Forces with the basis placed on increasing long-term war capabilities and long-distance offensive capabilities. It has already stockpiled 26 tonnes of plutonium, a nuclear material. It has also carried out a test of delivery rockets capable of carrying nuclear warheads and is pushing ahead with a theater defense missile plan. All of this vividly shows how desperately Japan is running wild for its overseas expansion.

If Japan becomes a permanent member state of the Security Council, thus, given veto rights, and goes so far as to participate in UN forces, it will undoubtedly bring disaster to Asia. However, such an ambition can never be realized in today's world. Before it tries to seek the position of a permanent member state of the UN Security Council, Japan should be aware of its present position of being subject to the world's criticism as a result of its evasion to liquidate its wrongdoings in the past. Japan should first sincerely apologize and provide compensation for the crimes it committed in the past.

Without doing so, Japan will never win trust from any country of the world. Japan should look squarely at this demand of the world's people and act discreetly.

Delegates Depart for UN General Assembly

SK2209103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Choe Su-hon, vice-minister of foreign affairs, left Pyongyang on September 22 to participate in the 49th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

It was seen off at the airport by Song Ho-kyong, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and other officials concerned.

Government Science Delegates Depart for Romania

SK2209103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—A Korean Government delegation for scientific and technological cooperation led by Kim Ung-ho, vice-chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, left here today by plane to attend the 14th meeting of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Subcommittee between Korea and Romania to be held in Romania.

Peruvian Figures Support Korean Reunification

SK2209100694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—Figures of twenty political and public figures of Peru including Guzman Rivera Castaneda, general secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru, Renan Raffo Munoz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party, and Oscar Felipe Bendura, general secretary of the Peruvian Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea in a recent joint statement called upon all the progressive peoples and political and social organisations of the world to support and encourage the Korean people in their just cause of national reunification.

The joint statement welcomed the agreed statement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and urged the United States to unconditionally implement its commitments to the DPRK.

It called for establishing a new peace arrangement to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement in keeping with the changed international situation and the demands of the Korean people and strongly demanded an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Foreign Parties Congratulate Kim Chong-il

SK2209044694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The dear leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Chong-il received congratulatory messages from foreign party leaders on the 46th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The messages came from Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, convenor of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Rakotobao Andriantiana, president, and Gisele Rabesahala, general secretary, of the Party of the Congress for the Independence of Madagascar; Talal Hafun Ala Mai, general secretary of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan; Zbigniew Wiktor, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Polish League of Communists "Proletariat"; Roberto Gabriele, general secretary of the Movement for Peace and Socialism of Italy; Ludo Martens, chairman of the Central Committee of the Belgian Labour Party; Klaus Riis, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Denmark (Marxist-Leninist); Tani Valer Lopera, general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; and Ali Houdou, secretary general of the Party of Revolution of Benin.

They extend warmest congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il on the National Day and wish him good health and a long life.

They express the belief that the Korean people would successfully carry to accomplishment the revolutionary cause of President Kim Il-song under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also received a congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the Slovak Communist Party on the occasion.

Foreign Papers Carry Biography of Kim Chong-il

SK2209044794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The Thai paper XINGSAN RIBAO carried the brief biography of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The paper said dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme leader inheriting the cause of President Kim Il-song is wisely leading the Korean people in the building of socialism.

His brief biography was also carried by the Indian paper NEW DELHI TIMES and the Singaporean paper STRAITS TIMES.

Foreigners Visit Kim Il-song's Statue

SK2209050694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The family of Otto Grotewohl, former chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic [GDR], staying in Korea visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang again on September 20 and honored his memory.

They presented a bouquet of flowers before the statue of President Kim Il-song and observed a moment's silence.

Hans Grotewohl, a son of the former chairman of the Council of the Ministers of the GDR, said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was not only an intimate comrade-in-arms of his father but also a father who had taken warm care of his family.

We, together with the Korean people, paid tribute to the memory of the great leader with most reverential feelings, he added.

On the same day, the delegation of the Russian research centre of Kimchongilism headed by its chief Mikhail Konkin, the delegation of the researchers of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea led by researcher Yusei Takara, the Jilin City Friendship Delegation of China, the delegation of the Jilin Provincial Exports Exhibition, Satakuni Takaya, a professor of the Institute of Buddhism of Japan, and other foreign visitors laid bouquets of flowers before the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill and observed a moment's silence in his memory.

Paper: 'Peace Should Be Won Through a Struggle'

SK2209101794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 22 Sep 94

["Fighting for World Peace Is Consistent Stand of DPRK"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—It is entirely thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's peace efforts that a war has been prevented and peace maintained so far in the Korean peninsula, one of the places where the danger of war is most imminent in Asia and the rest of the world, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

In a signed article titled "It Is the Consistent Stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea To Fight for World Peace", it says:

Comrade Kim Il-song showed a true road of peace for the present times on the basis of the immortal chuche idea and led to a victory the peace movement of the peoples for independence against imperialism and for peace against war, thus making undying contributions to the cause of global peace.

What is important in his idea of defending peace is that peace should be won through a struggle.

As long as there remain imperialism and dominationism, threat to peace is constantly present. So, only when the peaceloving people wage a stubborn struggle against imperialism and dominationism, is it possible for them to defend peace and create an atmosphere favourable for the independent development common to each country and humankind.

With the chuche-based idea of peace propounded by the great leader, the world peace movement of our era has developed in depth into a great political movement for independence against imperialism by the world's people conscious of the common destiny of humankind, going beyond the boundary of a humanitarian movement.

The great leader saw to it that the DPRK strengthened solidarity and unity with the world people of broad strata who love peace, while making peace overtures to check and frustrate the imperialists' moves for aggression and war.

In April, 1959, the DPRK initiated the creation of a nuclear-free, peace zone in Asia including the Korean peninsula and in March, 1981, the Workers' Party of Korea, with the Japan Social-Democratic Party, published a joint declaration on the creation of a nuclear-free, peace zone in northeast Asia.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on a visit to Korea in June this year and, by his tireless diplomatic efforts, made a breakthrough for detente in the extremely strained DPRK-U.S. relations which were heading for a phase of war.

In the international arena, the DPRK has all along called for the dismantling of the aggressive military blocs, withdrawal of foreign troops and military bases, a halt to the arms race and for disarmament and a peaceful and fair solution to international disputes so as to defend peace and security of the world. At the same time, it has expressed support and solidarity for all forms of peace movements.

Our republic will continue to carry through the idea of peaceful external policy advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song in his lifetime, thus greatly contributing to the cause of global independence and world peace.

Loyalty of Anti-Japanese Revolutionaries Viewed

SK2209102194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 22 Sep 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Following Loyalty of Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Forerunners"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in an editorial today calls upon the party members and the working people to follow the loyalty of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who kept their sense of obligation to the leader to the end and to apply it creditably to the worthy struggle in upholding the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and our people.

To actively follow the example of loyalty of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who bravely crossed the deadline and cut the way through the enemy, saying they had no right even to die before they carried out the revolutionary idea and line and the order of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, is the worthiest work for firmly defending and displaying the single-hearted unity of our party and the revolutionary ranks through generations, the editorial stresses, and continues:

Our people will remain faithful to the leadership of the party, following the example of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, in her intense loyalty to the leader and her unbounded devotion to the revolution.

The editorial further says:

We must cherish the iron will and faith that we will certainly win because we are guided by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great thinker and theoretician and statesman and an outstanding strategist possessed of literary and military accomplishments and loyalty and filial piety and fight unyieldingly, wholly entrusting to him the destinies of ourselves and our posterity. We must resolutely defend the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as rifles and bombs with the unshakable view that his safety is the life and future of our revolution.

South Korea

DPRK Delegates Issue Statement in Geneva

SK2109225694 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Report by KBS special reporting team from Geneva]

[Text] The second meeting of the third round of high-level talks between the United States and North Korea will begin in Geneva on 23 September. North Korea is expected to again demand that support for light-water reactors be realized as soon as possible and that mutual liaison offices be established.

The North Korean delegation issued a statement upon arrival in Geneva early this morning, stating that the main agenda item of this meeting is to implement measures for simultaneous actions [tongsi haengdong chocho] agreed upon in August without delay. By measures for simultaneous actions, North Korea means that in exchange for North Korea's suspension of the operation of its graphite moderated reactors, the United States will support the construction of light-water reactors and open a liaison office as soon as possible.

It will not be easy, however, for the United States and North Korea to reach an agreement because the two parties disagreed on the type of light-water reactors at previous meetings and North Korea is demanding a huge amount of money. The first meeting between the United States and North Korea will be held at the U.S. mission to Geneva on 23 September. U.S. Chief Delegate Gallucci is scheduled to arrive in Geneva this afternoon.

Importance of U.S.-DPRK Talks Session Viewed

SK2209134594 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 22 Sep 94 p 7

[Article by reporter Kim Cha-su: "New Variables in DPRK-U.S. Talks in Geneva"]

[Text] It is likely the second session of the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks, which will resume on 23 September, will be important in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue since both sides will discuss formulating concrete plans to implement a DPRK-U.S. agreement reached in Geneva on 13 August.

Under this situation, in which it is difficult for the two sides to formulate plans to implement the existing agreement, new variables will arise, such as the apparent dispute [kaltung] between hardliners and moderates within the DPRK. As a result, a difficult situation is expected during the DPRK-U.S. talks. Accordingly, based on a system of firm cooperation, the ROK and the United States have reportedly formulated a basic strategy to seek a complete and comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue within the framework of the existing agreement, refuting North Korea's new demands.

The agenda items to be discussed during the talks are as follows: North Korea must completely freeze its nuclear development by suspending the ongoing construction of its 50-megawatt and 200-megawatt graphite-moderated reactors, by closing down the radiochemical laboratory, and by transferring its nuclear fuel rods to a third country; must return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and abide by the Nuclear Safeguards Accord; and must accept special inspections to verify its past nuclear activity.

On the other hand, the United States should support building a light-water reactor; supply alternative energy; improve relations with the DPRK, including the establishment of liaison offices; and guarantee it will not be the first to pose a nuclear threat to the DPRK. Even if the United States and North Korea agree upon these items, it is difficult to formulate plans to completely implement the agreement. Under such circumstances, the United States and North Korea have differences of opinion regarding the major points of discussion. In particular, the U.S. position is very different from that of the DPRK concerning a light-water reactor model and special inspections.

It is Washington's position that before the United States earnestly begins supporting the construction of a light-water reactor, the DPRK should completely verify its past nuclear activity by taking practical steps, including the acceptance of special inspections, in order to dispel suspicions over North Korea's past nuclear development. However, Pyongyang has maintained its position that it will never accept special inspections, saying special inspections infringe upon North Korea's sovereignty.

Regarding support for building a light-water reactor, the U.S. position is that the DPRK should accept an ROK-style reactor for technological, political, and financial reasons. On the other hand, the DPRK, which is unhappy with ROK participation in the project, favors a German-style reactor—the safety, performance, and actual export records of which are proven to be outstanding—under the pretext that ROK-style reactors are only now being constructed. Furthermore, the DPRK has requested from the United States additional expenses of several millions of dollars, the amount spent so far to build its graphite-moderated reactor, which runs counter to the agreement reached in Geneva on 13 August. In particular, it has been learned that North Korea's calls for a German-model reactor and for compensation have been made according to the demands of hardline forces within the DPRK. Therefore, it is expected the United States and the DPRK will dispute an agreement regarding the above-mentioned matters. The ROK and the United States have reportedly agreed to maintain their firm position that they will not support the DPRK, including the construction of a light-water reactor, if North Korea's past nuclear activity is not verified during the second session of the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks. This indicates that Pyongyang should adopt an ROK-style reactor, and that South Korea should play a leading role in building the reactor since South Korea can bear a considerable amount of the cost necessary for its construction.

Regarding the reactor model and special inspections, which are the main agenda items during the talks, concerned government officials assess that the second session of the third round of talks may break up if hardliners within the DPRK continue to maintain their firm positions regarding the nuclear issue. Also, the ROK and United States will maintain their firm position of not continuing to seek a solution to the nuclear issue through dialogue at the expense of their basic principles.

Previous U.S-DPRK Nuclear Talks Reviewed

SK2209023494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea resume high-level talks here Friday seeking a comprehensive settlement to the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

During the second session of the third round of high-level talks, officials will hold full-fledged negotiations aimed at solving outstanding questions on the basis of discussions at previous expert-level talks held in Pyongyang and Berlin.

As in the past, the American delegation will be headed by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci and the North Korean side by First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu.

Friday's talks were scheduled to take place at the U.S. Mission here, but the venue is subject to change as the North Korean delegates are asking that the first day's meeting be held at their representative mission in the Swiss city.

On arriving at the Geneva airport on Wednesday, the North Koreans said in a statement that they would work to achieve a substantial resolution of the nuclear issue in accordance with the principles and position expressed at the first session.

The Pyongyang delegates observed that the upcoming session is expected to focus on simultaneous steps to be taken by both sides with a view to implementing the Pyongyang-Washington statement agreed at the last session.

Through the expert-level talks and previous session, the statement added, the two sides held an adequate exchange of views while setting a final goal of settling the nuclear issue.

"Whether or not both sides can make progress in their upcoming discussions depends entirely on their political will and decision," the statement stressed. "There are anachronistic attempts by those forces who feel unhappy with the implementation of the North Korean-U.S. agreed statement that want to block progress in these talks.

"The two sides should not care about all the outside attempts to discredit their talks, but should pursue, without hesitation, the course that they have already chosen," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the American delegation is scheduled to arrive here at noon on Thursday (7 P.M. KST) [1000 GMT].

At the first session of the high-level talks' third round in mid-August, negotiators agreed on U.S. provision of light-water nuclear reactors to North Korea while supplying alternative energy during the construction period. They also decided that North Korea would freeze its graphite-moderated reactor project and would not reprocess spent fuel rods taken from the 5-megawatt unit in Yongbyon.

Moreover, they agreed to establish liaison offices in each country's capital in an effort to work toward complete normalization of political and economic relations.

In the meantime, a South Korean delegation arrived here on Thursday to engage in policy coordination with the United States during its talks with North Korea.

The South Korean delegation is headed by Chang Chae-yong, director general of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau.

President Vows 'Central' Role in Reactor Issue

SK2209064994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0641 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam promised his country would be the central provider of nuclear reactors to North Korea in a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton, a move initiated by Washington to get Seoul firmly bound to this commitment, officials here said Thursday.

The letter to Clinton, sent earlier this week, was in response to one received by Kim on Sept. 16 and pledges that South Korea will play a "central" role in building light-water nuclear reactors for North Korea.

The letter is widely interpreted as a sign of South Korea's commitment to the United States as Washington kicks off grueling high-level talks with Pyongyang aimed at pegging down the type of reactor and scope of financing.

Recent press reports said the United States wanted a South Korean pledge in writing as assurance before it arranges the 4-billion-dollar light-water reactor project.

The general reaction to these reports was negative in Seoul, with questions raised about the necessity of a written assurance by the president himself.

"President Kim's letter was a response to President Clinton's message. It was a reaffirmation of bilateral stances before the North Korea-U.S. high-level talks resume Sept. 23 in Geneva," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang ki-ho, toning down the interpretation that Kim's letter was in the form of a written commitment.

North Korea, which is demanding advanced reactors in exchange for freezing its nuclear program, has resisted taking the South Korean model. Washington hopes to tackle this problem again at the Geneva talks.

The North Korean negotiator for the reactor project said Pyongyang holds the sole authority to choose the reactor model while the United States is responsible for financing the project.

Ambassador-at-Large Robert Gallucci, head of the U.S. negotiating team on the North Korean nuclear issue, brought Clinton's letter when he came to Seoul last month and handed it personally to Kim after prior consultations about its contents, officials said.

Clinton's message, they said, reconfirmed the principle that new reactors will be supplied on condition that North Korea makes its past, present and future nuclear activities transparent and that an international consortium be formed for the reactor project with South Korea playing the key role.

Kim, in response, recalled his speech of Aug. 15 when he declared Seoul's willingness to assume the central role provided that South Korea's reactor model is chosen, that transparency is guaranteed and that the row over Pyongyang's nuclear program is resolved.

The South Korean president emphasized the need for substantive inter-Korean dialogue to attain ultimate settlement of the nuclear problem, Chang said.

Japan has also given a written assurance to the United States regarding its participation in the reactor project, the officials said.

Gallucci delivered Clinton's message to Tokyo as well when he visited there earlier this month, they said, and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama conveyed a response.

Minister To Brief Lawmakers on Nuclear Issue

SK2209074294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee will meet Friday [23 September] to be briefed on developments in the North Korean nuclear issue by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, sources said.

Members of the committee will also interpellate Han on ministry policy and cooperation between Seoul and

Washington at the third round of U.S.-North Korea high-level talks opening Friday, the sources said.

The foreign minister will brief the committee on the results of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's meetings with the South Korean ambassador to Washington and the North's ambassador to the United Nations, they said.

The committee members will then question Han on such issues as resumption of inter-Korean dialogue including summit talks through Carter's mediation, financial aid to Pyongyang for the construction of light-water nuclear reactors, and the terms and timing for an exchange of liaison offices between Washington and Pyongyang.

Kim Chong-il Vows To Implement Father's Pledges

SK2209083294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—North Korea's de facto leader Kim Chong-il has delivered a verbal message to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter vowing to honor the promises made by his father Kim Il-song, including his pledge to hold an inter-Korean summit.

The message was conveyed to Carter through North Korean ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon together with the letter that was also faxed to Carter by the late North Korean president.

In the message, the emerging North Korean leader reportedly expressed a strong desire to normalize relations with the United States, saying that the North Korean nuclear issue would be resolved if Washington guaranteed diplomatic ties.

A government source said Thursday that the junior Kim included his father's agreement to hold an inter-Korean summit in "the items promised," indirectly indicating that he would seek such talks if conditions became ripe.

The source explained that Kim's verbal message can be evaluated favorably, as he hints at the possibility of normal relations with Washington and a South-North Korean summit by reaching an early settlement to the dispute over the North's nuclear program.

"I've learned the North Korean ambassador delivered the verbal message that the junior Kim would translate his father's lifetime pledges into action sincerely," the source said, adding that Kim had asked for Carter's help in getting the U.S. Government to accept Pyongyang's intentions.

In response, Carter reportedly asked Pyongyang to seek a resumption of inter-Korean dialogue while expressing concern over the virtual collapse of the agreed inter-Korean summit talks following the death of Kim Il-song.

DPRK Monthly Urges Opening of Economy

SK2209004894 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Sep 94 p 9

[Text] North Korea, strapped by a serious economic pinch, is likely to hail Western investors in a desperate bid for a savior, watchers here say. Its semi-government gazette, CHOLLIMA, which sometimes represents Pyongyang's official position recently called for the opening of the economy.

"Without the expansion of trade," the monthly said in its latest issue made available yesterday, "none of the demands of the various sectors of the people's economy can be met." It also noted the need for the introduction of advanced science and technology.

Earlier, Pyongyang designated the three years from 1994 as a "bumper period" in a transition from domestic economic development to a trade-first policy.

"The North will positively seek Western capital and technology if and when the second round of the third North Korea-U.S. nuclear talks makes progress and clears the way for favorable relations next month," a government economist said.

Amid signs of appeasement with the United States, some entrepreneurs are already knocking at the door of the reclusive state to sound out business opportunities. American and German organizations are moving to send trade and investment missions there.

Large-scale projects being pushed by the North include the Najin-Sonbong free trade zone, Nampo light industry site, Mt. Kumgang tourism and resort facilities and Sohan Bay oil exploration, among others.

The Najin-Sonbong project is a part of the multinational development plan in the Tumen River area on the border between North Korea, China and Russia. The North will develop the Najin-Sonbong zone into nine industrial complexes in three phases from 1993 to 2010.

In the first phase in 1993-1995, infrastructure will be built to make the district the hub of regional cargo transportation. In the second phase till the year 2000, manufacturing industries for exports will be attracted. In the final stage, the northeastern city is to become an international trade and finance center.

Pyongyang intends to induce a total of 6,989 million dollars for its ambitious project. The Nampo project is a short-term one for the North which cannot wait for the Najin-Sonbong project to bear fruit. The North offered an exclusive tract for South Korean investors in Nampo on the western coast and agreed with the Daewoo Group to jointly develop the area in January 1992 when inter-Korean relations were smooth for a brief period.

The South dispatched a delegation composed of 14 public officials and corporate executives for the first-hand inspection in October 1992. At present, shirt, blouse, jacket and bag factories have been completed but further development has come to naught in the vortex of the North's nuclear game.

Dailies View Position on Carter Mediation Role

SK2209094494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports and articles carried in Seoul vernacular newspapers on 22 September on the ROK Government's position toward and expectations for former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's role in mediating North-South relations.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO publishes on page 1 and 3 a 2,000-word article by Hong Sok-chun on the government's plan to allow Carter to mediate. Noting that the government plans to treat Carter's second visit to the DPRK as an occasion to confirm the "present status" of the Kim Chong-il regime and to resume the North-South dialogue, the article writes that the government demanded Carter show "prudence" in deciding the time of his visit, and that the government will not be the first to propose a North-South summit, but will wait for the DPRK to express its desire for a summit. A relevant high-ranking government official stated: "The summit will be possible only after Kim Chong-il officially assumes the positions of general secretary of the Workers' Party and president of the state"; "Carter's visit to the DPRK will be possible only after mid-October, which is the 100th day following Kim Il-song's death."

The article also points out that "the government presently has no specific means for promoting a North-South dialogue, except through Carter's visit to the North." Therefore, the government affirmatively accepted Carter's proposal to visit the DPRK. Noting that unlike his first visit, Carter's plan to visit North Korea this time will be welcomed by both North and South Korea, the article adds that Carter will visit Seoul, then Pyongyang. Thus, the government is prudently reviewing "a message" to be sent to the DPRK through Carter. However, a government official stated: "We will only inform North Korea of our basic position that the agreement to hold a North-South summit is still valid. We will not be the first to propose a summit with Kim Chong-il." The article adds: "Resumption of North-South talks is an urgent task under the circumstances in which the establishment of liaison offices may suddenly be realized at any moment." The article concludes by stressing that the government intends to put Carter's choice of the timing of his visit and his role "under thorough control."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word article by Washington-based correspondent Yi Sang-sok entitled "Washington's View on Carter's Mediation Role." The article says that although the Clinton administration expressed its official position to welcome former President Jimmy Carter's efforts to mediate a North-South summit, it is watching his movements with "a sense of uneasiness" since there is "a delicate tension between former President Carter and the U.S. Administration over the incumbent U.S. foreign policy." However, the article notes that in the event of a prolonged stalemate in the DPRK-U.S. high-level talks and a continuation of strained North-South relations, the U.S. Administration will be forced to rely on Carter's diplomacy. The article adds that the DPRK may want Carter to visit Pyongyang when Kim Chong-il's official power succession is held, but Carter said after talks with the ROK ambassador that he has no specific plan to visit the DPRK at the moment because he is aware of "the strained atmosphere between himself and the administration," and because he does not want to give the impression that he wants to engage in full scale in diplomacy with North Korea.

HANGUK ILBO also carries on page 3 a 1,500-word article by Choe Kyu-sik entitled "ROK Government's View on Carter Mediation." Noting that the government showed a positive assessment of and expectation toward Carter's mediation efforts based on prudence—unlike in June when Carter expressed his efforts to improve North-South relations—the article writes that the government displayed a clear position to affirmatively assess Carter's role in resuming North-South relations, and that the government regards a North-South summit as the best method for improving overall North-South relations, including the nuclear issue. However, the government appears to be taking a prudent attitude because Kim Chong-il's official power succession has not yet been realized, although it considers the establishment of his power system certain.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word article by Yi Chong-taek entitled "Government's View on Carter's Mediation." Noting the government is showing "a somewhat complicated position" toward Carter's role as mediator, the article refers to remarks of a relevant Chongwadae [presidential offices] official that "the North-South summit has been postponed due to North Korea's accident. Therefore, only when the DPRK explains that the reason for postponing the talks is now removed can the summit be resumed at any time. Although we have no objection to Carter's role as mediator in the North-South dialogue, we do not have great hope for him." The article also points out that such complicated views regarding Carter's movements are based on the fact that the North-South dialogue initiated by Carter may possibly advance "under North Korea's initiative," and that the government may give the impression it is excessively adhering to North-South dialogue without gaining any substantive interest. Despite this, government authorities are hoping Carter's visit to North Korea will be an "important occasion" for improving North-South relations.

Kim Tae-chung Plans To Meet With U.S.'s Carter

SK2209001294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0003 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Atlanta, Georgia, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—Retired opposition leader Kim Tae-chung visits former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on Thursday to discuss securing peace on the Korean peninsula.

Their discussion is expected to focus on ways to solve the North Korean nuclear problem and improve inter-Korean relations.

Kim, currently head of a peace foundation of his own creation, plans to exchange views with Carter on a visit to North Korea by the latter to mediate an inter-Korean summit.

Carter, who recently met with South Korean Ambassador to Washington Han Sung-su and North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon, is likely to decide on his future role in achieving peace on the Korean peninsula after meeting with Kim.

Clinton's Foreign Policy Capability Questioned

SK2209061494 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 22 Sep 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Clinton's Foreign Policy Has Lost Its Public Trust"]

[Text] Words should be spared. This is all the more true for a president who shoulders the future of a country. If one seeks only flowery words, while being ignorant that public opinion is sensitive to the changing situation, the president himself will experience the loss of his own prestige.

We are talking about the United States, the country where politics is directed by public opinion. The people are losing their trust in President Clinton's foreign policy. He has seen the failure of many of his policies—put forth while stating they are suitable for the post-Cold War era—and he has been faced with a series of embarrassing instances in which he had to reverse his earlier words.

The U.S. troops that had been dispatched to Somalia to save the Somalian refugees withdrew due to the surprise of human casualties. The policy of linking the most-favored nation status with the enhancement of human rights fell through—just as an unfulfilled desire—in the face of China's resistance. The principle of not permitting immigration of Cuban refugees, which had been proclaimed to confront the Cuban communist authorities' clumsy strategy for survival, became null and void in the presence of protest by Cuban-Americans a few days after the proclamation.

Now we are going to discuss the Haitian situation. Not many Americans will say that "Clinton can now save face" because the dictator picked political asylum while knuckling under to the threat of invasion from the United States. The prevailing view of domestic media is that the capability of the president's judgment is questionable.

There is no reason to interfere in the internal affairs of Haiti, while at the same time presenting the last bargaining chip of an invasion. On the contrary, an invasion would mark the beginning of other problems, rather than an end to the existing problems.

The success of restoring a civilian government and again filling the power vacuum that will be created as a result of the expulsion of the military leaders, purely depends upon the capability of the Haitian people for democracy. Under the present circumstances, it is almost like waiting for a miracle to expect this to happen.

An irrational measure [murisu] such as an invasion could not have been a policy alternative. To the contrary, the United States would shoulder a considerable financial burden and suffer human casualties while pursuing a long-term occupation of Haiti or would be in a dilemma as to whether to push for the withdrawal of the troops.

This is why the Clinton administration welcomed former President Carter's intervention and agreed to a peaceful solution of the Haitian question.

Then, why did the administration suggest taking an irrational measure such as an invasion? Driven by the principle that he has to do something for the democracy of Haiti, President Clinton imposed limited economic sanctions at the end of last year. He has gradually heightened the degree of sanctions and since early September he was faced with a situation in which he was considering an undesired invasion. This was because he felt there was a problem in his public trust rating as he had continually reversed his polices, while excessively issuing empty promises—which exceeded the capabilities of the United States—to Somalia, China, and Cuba.

The Americans are failing to confirm their country's superiority in the process of a peaceful solution of the Haitian problem. On the contrary, seeing his public trust rating fall due to his empty promises, the President has a mistaken idea to increase his public trust with the United States by venturing to wage a war. Under these circumstances, he just seems relieved to save his own face thanks to Carter's intervention. Presidents' words should be spared.

U.S. Carrier Group 'Training' in Sea of Japan

SK2209090294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command [CFC] on Thursday [22 September] denied the report that a U.S. carrier group is in the East Sea [Sea of Japan] to buttress the United States' negotiation ability toward North Korea.

"The purpose of the presence of forces of the U.S. Pacific Fleet or Seventh Fleet in the East Sea is merely for training," a command officer said.

The STARS AND STRIPES said in its Thursday issue that a U.S. carrier group comprising carrier USS Kittyhawk, three cruisers and a frigate is in the East Sea to back U.S. efforts to negotiate with North Korea.

The command officer said he could not say when the carrier group reached the East Sea because "it is a classified information."

"But, task forces of the U.S. Pacific and Seventh Fleets have routinely undergone training in the area," he said.

The carrier group is learned to have been under training in the seas off Cheju-to and South Korea's south and east coasts since last mid-July.

Japanese Businessman Returns 400 Cultural Assets

SK2209091194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—About 400 Korean cultural assets taken out of the country to Japan during Japanese colonial rule have been returned, Culture and Sports Minister Yi Min-sop announced Thursday [22 September].

Yi told reporters, "A Japanese businessman in his 60s, who demanded anonymity, on Monday donated a total of 377 cultural assets including a pair of earrings from the Paekche Kingdom rated at the treasure level, a jade ornament and a silver bracelet, both from the Koryo Dynasty."

The cultural assets, dating from the neolithic age to the Choson Dynasty, were collected by the donor's father in the 1920s and 1930s in Korea and taken to Japan. This is the first time that so many valuable cultural properties have been recovered at once from Japan.

"The pair of earrings from the Paekche Kingdom is rated a treasure as there remain just 11 pairs of Paekche earrings and they have remarkable ornamentation as far as middle and vertical decoration," said Chong Yang-mo, director of the National Museum.

Chong added that both the jade ornament, which was apparently a clothing accessory, and the silver bracelet are the first of their kind and carry a high value.

The cultural assets are expected to be helpful in the study of ornaments from the Koryo Dynasty as their state of preservation is good and the excavation site has been identified.

They include such ornaments as earrings, necklaces, button-style items and hairpins, domestic goods like locks, coffin decorations and tweezers and such Buddhist articles as a gilt bronze sarura bottle.

The relics come from the Koryo Dynasty, the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla periods, the Choson Dynasty and the Lolang (Nangnang), the colonial rule of the Han empire.

The materials show a wide variety including metal, jade, stone, glass and lacquer.

The National Museum will take over the cultural assets after they have been reverted to the state treasury. It plans to hold a special exhibition as well as carry out preservation treatment and a special examination.

A delegation headed by Han Pyong-sam, a member of the Cultural Property Committee, was dispatched to Japan to bring back the assets after the Japanese proposed on Sept. 7 to donate them without condition.

Japanese have donated 1,091 items on five occasions since the two countries normalized diplomatic ties in 1965. However, most of the handovers have been small except when 1,082 tiles were returned in November 1987.

Transport Attaches Planned in Foreign Countries

SK2209070594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is pushing ahead with plans to install transport attaches in other countries for smooth negotiation in the expanding fields of aviation, maritime transport, railroads and tourism.

Government sources said Thursday that the Transportation Ministry and other concerned authorities have discussed dispatching transport attaches to such nations as the United States, China and Japan which are stepping up exchanges with Korea in the cited fields.

The move reflects the current rapid rise in service exchanges and the growing importance of such service as well as goods.

The plan was proposed by the Transportation Ministry and is presently being discussed with the Foreign Ministry, among others.

Paris, Washington, Tokyo and Beijing are expected to be the first cities to host Korean transport attaches, who will carry out comprehensive negotiations in maritime transport, aviation, railroads and tourism. Their duties will differ from the functions of commercial attaches dispatched by the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry, according to the sources.

Beijing has already sent three transport attaches here under the Korea-China aviation agreement reached in July, which includes the exchange of such attaches, while Seoul is expected to dispatch their counterparts soon to the Chinese capital.

In addition, the Transportation Ministry is studying plans to send transport attaches to major international ports, airports and terminals. Their work would include understanding the transportation situation in each country, supporting the establishment of international networks of transport and tourism companies, gaining knowledge of local travel conditions and attractions to foreign tourists, and establishment of transportation networks using transcontinental links such as the Siberian railway.

A ministry official said, "the government will gradually realize the plan, taking the policy to reduce government organizations into consideration, although there is a consensus among authorities on the necessity for transport attaches."

He revealed that the government may dispatch a transport attache to Beijing as soon as possible and to other regions in the latter half of next year.

Sports Group Asks Koreas To Host Games Jointly

SK2209025394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The Asia Table Tennis Union (ATTU) on Wednesday formally asked South and North Korea to either jointly host the 13th Asian table tennis championship tournament or sponsor it in Seoul or Pyongyang.

The request was made at an ATTU Executive Council meeting held at the Astoria Hotel in Tianjin, where the 12th Asian ping pong championship tournament is now underway, according to the table tennis association here.

The North and South Korean delegates to the Tianjin meeting reportedly expressed their intention to respond to the request after consulting with their respective governments.

The North Korean delegates reportedly took a passive stance on the grounds that the matter can be discussed only after inter-Korean issues are resolved and reconciliation settles in.

South Ensured Membership in WHO Executive Body

SK2209010894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0059 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea will be elected to the executive body of the World Health Organization [WHO] next May to represent the west Pacific during its three-year term, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The West Pacific Committee of the organization unanimously named South Korea as a candidate to the post at a regional conference Wednesday, ensuring formal election at the WHO General Assembly opening in May 1995, the ministry said.

South Korea joined WHO in 1949 and served on the executive body twice, from 1960-63 and from 1984-87.

Three countries represent the west Pacific, currently Japan, Vietnam and China. The group will increase to four [number as received] nations, with South Korea and Australia becoming new members to serve from May 1995.

Ministry on Intensifying Foreign Language Study

SK2209070794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—In an effort to intensify foreign language education, the Education Ministry will invite 59 English native speakers to Korea from next year, the ministry announced Thursday.

The ministry will post them to offices of education in 15 cities and provinces.

Those being sought include single people aged 35 or less from such English-speaking countries as the United States, Britain and Canada who are majors in English education or have teaching certificates. They will serve as lecturers for domestic English teachers in language training and teaching methods and assist teachers in the classroom with English conversation.

The ministry will expand the program to include 200 English native speakers by 1997 if it is deemed effective. They will be paid 2,000 U.S. dollars per month for eight hours' work per day, according to the ministry.

Plans Foreign Scholarship Increase

SK2209070894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The Ministry of Education has decided to sharply increase the number of foreign students studying in the country under government scholarships from the current 20 or so yearly to 200 per annum by 1999, indicating a rise of 40 foreign beneficiaries a year during the period. The decision was made to help heighten understanding of the country abroad, a ministry official said Thursday.

While about 150 Korean students go abroad for further study each year as beneficiaries of foreign government scholarships, their foreign counterparts invited by the South Korean Government totaled 182 from 1969-86 and between 10 and 26 per year from 1987-94.

At present, 44 foreign scholarship students from 20 countries including Japan, Taiwan and France are enrolled in master's, doctor of philosophy and language courses at six universities. They receive 450,000 won (562.50 U.S. dollars) in monthly living allowance, with entrance and tuition fees exempted.

Entry Into Convention Against Torture Approved

SK2209094794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0933 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government on Thursday [22 September] approved a plan to join the United Nations Convention Against

Tortures and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Once the country signs the U.N. agreement, the convention will have the same effect as a domestic law. Presently 82 countries have been affiliated with it. The government, however, decided not to accept some optional clauses of the convention, such as the right of a country to raise an issue of other country's torture question.

Another clause withheld is the right of individual people to make petition to the Torture Prevention Committee created in Geneva under the convention. Once reliable information is received on the perpetration of torture in a specific country, the committee may under the convention ask the country involved to cooperate in probe or explain about it.

Kim Reaffirms Plan 'To Root Out' Corruption

SK2209025994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0248 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam reaffirmed his determination to root out corruption during his term in office at an expanded cabinet meeting Thursday morning.

He said, "I clarify my will again to eradicate irregularities and corruption before history and the people. The government will continue to expose corruption and punish corrupt officials until the end of my term in office."

The meeting was attended by Prosecutor-General Kim To-on, National Police Agency Commissioner-General Kim Hwa-nam and National Tax Administration Commissioner Chu Kyong-sok as well as all cabinet members, including Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok and senior presidential secretaries.

Since its inauguration in February last year, the Kim Yong-sam government has carried out an anti-corruption campaign, but a recent embezzlement case involving some Inchon city officials stained the government's efforts.

Some officials at the Puk-ku (North ward) office in Inchon city were recently arrested after it was discovered they had embezzled tax revenues running into the billions of won.

President Kim instructed the cabinet to expose all remaining irregularities and corruption to eliminate any possibility of irregularities and corruption recurring.

"I'm in extreme distress after seeing that such corruption as the scandal involving local officials in Inchon had not been exposed despite the government's steady and strong efforts to eradicate corruption," he said.

Meanwhile, commenting on the case in which five people were murdered and their bodies burned by six gangsters, President Kim deplored "the heinous crime." "I feel sorry to the people because the government could not arrest the murderers earlier. They, who refused to be humans, should be expelled from this society forever."

President Accepts Resignation of Inchon Mayor

SK2209020394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Thursday accepted the resignation tendered by Inchon city Mayor Choe Ki-son on Monday, taking moral responsibility for the embezzlement of tax revenues at the port city's North ward office. The chief executive plans to name Choe's successor soon in order to fill the administrative vacuum.

An official at Chongwadae, the presidential office, said, "to settle the embezzlement case at an early date and ensure administrative continuity, chances are high that the next Inchon city mayor will be appointed from among career civil administrators."

The forthcoming reshuffle is likely to be confined to the Inchon city mayor, without being expanded to other city and gubernatorial posts, the official added.

Inchon Prosecution Finds Missing Tax Receipts

SK2209074994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Inchon, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—Continuing its probe into revenue embezzlement at Inchon city's Puk-ku (North ward) Office, the prosecution Thursday [22 September] found missing files containing local tax receipts for three years starting in 1991—the key to determining the total amount pilfered during the period, a prosecution spokesman said.

Early Thursday morning, the Inchon prosecution retrieved three sacks of acquisition tax receipts for three years starting in 1991 from the trunk of a Cielo Sedan in the underground garage of Yi In-su, an in-law of Kang Sin-hyo, 54, an official in the Puk-ku Ward Office's Evaluation Section, in southern Inchon, according to the spokesman.

Kang told the prosecution that he received the files of receipts from Kim Hyong-su, 38, an official at the Puk-ku Ward Office's Taxation Section, on Sept. 14 just before Kim fled to the United States. Kim allegedly stole the receipts from the ward office between Sept. 5 and 9.

The prosecution arrested Kang on charges of embezzlement and is interrogating him to ascertain who helped him conceal the receipts, prosecution sources said. Kang has confessed to the prosecution that he moved the receipts three times before his capture.

The prosecution hopes to find out the total amount of local taxes misappropriated by Puk-ku ward officials including An Yong-hwi, 53, the major suspect in the scam who is under detention on embezzlement charges.

Also on Thursday, the prosecution resumed sorting out fake receipts from the files of local tax receipts kept by the Puk-ku Ward Office as 15 tax administration officials returned from the Chusok holiday, the sources said. The prosecution expects to announce a rough estimation of the embezzled tax revenues early next week, when it will have finished checking all local tax receipts including those that were just retrieved, the sources noted. The prosecution, which has already sorted out more than 500 counterfeit receipts from acquisition tax receipts for 1989 and 1990, separated many additional fake receipts during the day. It plans to send the receipts in question soon to local banks to determine whether they are authentic.

Meanwhile, the prosecution failed to take into custody Yi Sung-nok, 38, head of the Taxation Section at the Namdong-ku (Southeast) ward office who is on a police wanted list in connection with the embezzlement case, as officials could not find him in Anyang, south of Seoul, although he had earlier expressed his willingness to voluntarily surrender to the prosecution, the sources said. The prosecution presumes that he changed his mind.

* Kim Yong-sam's Management Style Examined

942C0126 Seoul SINDONG-A in Korean Jun 94 pp 185-195

["Analysis of Kim's national administration ability, intuitional personnel management mass reform task"]

[Text] If President Kim Yong-sam concentrates mainly on the "image," "exception," "appearance," "surprise" and "his man" in personnel management, he may make the same mistakes again and again. As a leader in important times, he should employ sincere and loyal people.

Personnel Management Regarding Good Appearances

Good appearances would be the first characteristic of Kim's personnel management.

This characteristic can also be seen in the way he wears his necktie. He always wears a necktie neatly and beautifully. Although he is close to seventy, his taste could be said to be of a new generation. Even a young stylist would find it hard to be like him. Imagine the mindset of a country's leader who tidies his own clothes himself every day.

Having been an assemblyman at the young age of twenty-five, he may have possibly been compelled to believe in the impact of dandyism and neatness and his anxiousness to constantly stand in the spotlight of mass communication. This aspect of Kim's philosophy may have been derived from his opinion that the secret of politics is in dandyism and charm.

When saying something, he does not use many adjectives but uses a few adjectives repeatedly, giving emphasis on a certain syllable. "Important," "magnificent" and "nice" are his favorite words.

"Do you mean the New Democratic Party? How nice it was at first! It was very nice," was what Kim said in 1987 when he parted with Yi Min-u of the New Democratic Party. Even when judging value, he uses "nice" or "bad."

Even when appointing someone to a post, he gives his mind mainly to the image of the person. Only to get a good reputation or image and to show progressive ideas, he employed some professors, lawyers and women to form his cabinet, not fully knowing of their ability, personality, etc.

Kim Yong-sam is not the only one who covets good appearances, of course, it is just that he does so more than others. This is not a negative judgment, it only means that he is looked upon as such based on the results his government has been realizing for the past year or so.

Such a case can be seen in the fact that he appointed Han Wan-sang as Deputy Prime Minister.

It is said that Han first was scheduled to be Secretary General of the Blue House. But as the aides offered their opinion that because he is a man of strong individuality, he is unfit for the post of dealing with overall national affairs, it is said that the President immediately changed his mind and appointed him as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Unification.

But having a typical advisor style and such a strong individuality that he cannot suppress his words, Han Wan-sang has become an object of criticism since he took office: "a progressive with a sentimental outlook on the reunification" or "a man in charge of national security who has a dubious outlook on the North."

The President might have intended to pick up Han, a distinguished professor out of office, and to let him take the initiative in the reform movement. Although the President should have felt confident in his way that Han, a long time advisor to him, was well fitted for the post, the result was quite the opposite.

Among the members that formed the new cabinet on February 26, 1993, Oh Byong-mun, Minister of Education; Ho Shin-haeng, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Pak Yang-shil, Minister of Public Health; and Hwang San-song, Minister of Environment, were compelled to resign their posts soon. That is also believed to be because they were picked up mainly for their appearances.

It can be said to be the first character of Kim's personnel management that he picked up Han Song-chu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chong Chong-uk, Senior Secretary for Foreign and National Security Affairs, Kwon Yong-cha, Second Minister of State and Kim Chong-nam, Senior Secretary of Education, Social, and Cultural Affairs, whose abilities and results are too early to be judged.

Surprising Show

The second character of his personnel management is to frequently produce surprising shows.

Such has been his individual character since his days as opposition leader when he had only a few useful men around him. Some examples showing this characteristic of his personnel management are that he searched about, averting the National Security Planning Agents' attention, for General Chang Song-hwa who was the main victim of the December 12 incident, to win him over to his political party, and that he put forth all his energy to win several tens of reserve generals including Kim Chae-chun, former CIA director and an assemblyman, and appointed as the floor leader, Assemblyman Yi Ki-taek, who was not his direct secretary, surprising other factions.

Because Kim's personnel management is exceptional and unexpected, it has always been the talk of the people. He seems to think that such personnel management is aesthetics in his own way—personnel management is not bad if it arouses the public interest and expectations, even if it is a false rumor.

It is also nothing but the result of exceptional personnel management that soon after he appointed Mr. Chun Byong-min to the post of Senior Secretary in the Blue House, he changed his mind . And there are similar cases where he employed the services of persons out of power, and appointed Chung Song-chol as aide to the first minister of state, made Kim Chong-nam senior secretary, and nominated professor Son Hak-kyu as a candidate.

When he appointed Yi In-chae as Minister of Labor (born 1948) and Kim Sang-chol as Mayor of Seoul (born 1947), he told ministers, "Having two ministers in their forties, our youth will now be full of hope."

This is only a brief review of Kim. By employing exceptional persons, President Kim seemed to have intended to eliminate the corruption and the peace-at-any-price trend of the bureaucratic society. As those close to him proposed, "In Korea where bureaucracy has as much power as in Japan, whoever is appointed to the post of minister would sufficiently carry out his job. So you should now daringly appoint as ministers persons from nonofficaldom to create a new phase." President Kim is said to have been interested in this.

President Kim has two points of view on the bureaucracy. One is the recognition that the bureaucracy is necessary for grasping political power. He has heard and he himself has keenly felt that no one would be able to obtain the presidency without its support.

Assemblyman Hwang Byong-tae (present Ambassador to China) has also given Kim that kind of advice.

He emphasized to Kim to get the support of the public officials, saying that so long as the public officials distrusted opposition parties, no one was able to grasp political power. For various reasons, President Kim has believed that bureaucracy is indispensable.

President Kim's other view on the bureaucracy is a very negative one: The bureaucracy in Korea is a privileged group that has conspired with the corrupted class which had vested rights under the protection of thirty years of military government. Accordingly, in order to reform, he believed that the bureaucracy was the first target to be eliminated.

Thus, President Kim seems to have intended to reform the bureaucracy by appointing his confidants from nonofficaldom as ministers.

But this was a mistake. He overlooked that the bureaucracy has already grown so much that it resisted and remained unmoved as he was going to let ministers play the trigger role in the reform. Some of it got so haughty and crafty that they planned organized resistances and plots. In fact, they executed some of the plan.

Something of the situation can be seen in the book "Seven Days' Mayor of Seoul" in which Kim Sang-chol, former Mayor of Seoul, wrote about his bitter feelings. Even the Blue House affirmed some of his problems. Having been charged with the mission to break down the demons of the bureaucracy, Mayor Kim, a lawyer in his forties and an intellectual with experience in running for assemblyman, instead gave in to the tricks of these demons.

In short, it would be no exaggeration to say that the trouble about the bureaucracy is the conflict between President Kim's attempt to reform leading new persons and the abuses of the bureaucracy (for example, laziness, peace-at-any-price, corruption, adherence to traditional customs, etc.), Max Weber pointed out.

Criticized by the public after making public their personal assets, the bureaucracy was demoralized. Their prerequisite, which they heavily relied upon, was sharply decreased. Various inspections grew strict and their subordinates did not look up to "their seniors of property." They could never have imagined these events before.

Thoroughly Secret Personnel Management

Keeping a secret may be said to be the third character of his personnel management.

If personnel management is disclosed in advance, Kim believes it ends in failure. He dislikes it when even when news, however insignificant, regarding his personnel management appears in the papers or is talked about before he himself makes it public. There are some reasons for this.

First of all, it is because personnel management may be subject to slanders among competitors, misleading the selections of the persons who have the right of personnel management. So he informs no one of his personnel management before he goes public.

Before the president took office, he once said that the personnel management styles in the Fifth and Sixth Republics were regrettable. It is because there were some who soon after appearing in the papers as expectant to enter the cabinets, disappeared, only to be put to shame due to their private lives. For example, it is the case that after rising in popularity as a prime minister, a certain Shin ended up in failure, with sex scandals several years before, being exposed. President Kim regards it as incompetent and irresponsible personnel management.

Keeping a secret has been his iron rule since his days as opposition leader when he gathered and posted persons, averting the secret services' eyes. Because the ruling party with its enormous political power, tried to pick out his competent subordinates or isolate them from him, he has always conducted personnel management secretly. Producing a surprising show' without exposing his plans of personnel management' has been the way for him to survive.

As his planned personnel management was talked about, it has even happened that he changed his mind. It is not an exaggeration that when forming a cabinet, he gave all concerned an order to keep silent, and he said he might change his mind if the personnel management appeared in the papers. There are many persons who were merely told by President Kim, "Let's run an important business together, " not indicating what post of which ministry. Because the person having the right of personnel management closely keeps a secret, the expectant are compelled not to ask or disclose it.

He keeps a secret more closely when removing persons from office.

When removing from office the brains of the armed forces appointed in the Sixth Republic, Pak Chong-chol, the public prosecutor-general and Yi Hoe-chang, the prime minister in 1994, he did it so suddenly that everybody was surprised.

Purge Making Use Of Public Opinion

The fourth characteristic of President Kim's personnel management is to overcome difficult situations and to gain popularity through personnel management.

After his government started in 1993, such a character was well shown in the reorganization of the brains of the armed forces, the dismissal of politicians of property, and the audit and inspection of public institutions. By making public the flaws and letting the public level caustic criticism, he forced them to resign from public offices.

On March 8, 1993, he suddenly removed from office Kim Chin-yong, the Army Chief of the General Staff and So Wan-su, the Defense Security Commander, both members of the Hana Club which has been a strong military clique. Having produced two presidents, Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, Hana Club has been the object of complaint by Army soldiers who are alienated from it. Thinking that the situation of the civil president and the morale of the military could be raised, in case he removes Hana Club which has received preferential treatment in personnel management such as appointment and promotions, etc. he also removed from office An Byong-ho, the army capital garrison commander on April 3.

He took these steps so secretly that even his aides were not aware of them. It was not easy for him to dissolve the 30-year-old powerful private organization which took root in the Army after General Pak Chong-hi's coup. As could be seen in the December 12, 1979 incident, even the legitimate brains of the armed forces were either deprived of their right of command or cast into prison by the generals of Hana Club.

Keeping up with the purge of Hana Club, he discharged from service Yi Pil-sop, the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff and Kim Chin-son, the Second Army Commander, etc., and ordered the seven generals of the Club to leave their posts and to wait for further action in the October personnel management of military generals. But it is the dominant view that this situation and popularity in the army as a whole were raised.

By conducting personnel management in accordance with public opinion, President Kim solidified his position. Such a style of his is found even in the cases of both former and present Chairman of the National Assembly (Kim Chae-sun and Pak Jun-kyu) and an Assemblyman Yu Hak-song (former director of the National Security Planning Agency), who were forced to resign dishonorably. By rousing public opinion on the outside, he forced them to resign.

Until the 1990's, Mr. Yi Chol-song was a rival of President Kim. For that reason, he could be said to be a man of insight regarding Kim. In an interview, he said about President Kim, "He is an open-hearted, stubborn, energetic, and unyielding man. In associating with persons, he is mild-mannered and diligent. In doing so, he especially makes good use of the telephone."

In my reading of Kim's character, his words seem to be quite right, mainly that "Kim is stubborn, energetic, and unyielding."

It is a part of Kim's character to fight to the end with people worth fighting with and to be on good terms with people worth associating with. Up to now, he has been coping in an unyielding spirit with powerful enemies, tightening the union of like-minded people.

Repulsing Enemies And Embracing Comrades

His political style of distinguishing enemies from his comrades has always been turned up in personnel management. This could be said to be his fifth character.

Roughly speaking, it would also be the case that he treats Messers. Chong Chu-yong, Pak Tae-chun and Pak Chol-un so coolly that he might be considered too harsh. By treating Mr. Chong and the Hyundai group coolly, he seems intent on creating a warning for latent enemies to charge harshly the two Paks who only challenged and did not help him.

It is time that such a "divide and rule" policy is a usual practice of the leaders including Pak Chong-hi rather than an exclusive possession of President Kim. But in short, it cannot be denied that it is a character of Kim's political style to fight stubbornly and unyieldingly with rivals.

On the other side, he is a very generous boss to his men. This is one of the reasons why he is considered to be a politician having his secretaries conduct affairs. "Court group" is a quotation apt for him and his men.

Soon after Assemblyman Choe Hyong-u resigned from the post of the party secretary general, he was again appointed as minister of home affairs. Ex-Assemblymen So Sok-chae who was pardoned and got reinstated, is expecting an important post. Secretaries Yi Won-chong, Hong In-kil, Kim Ki-su, Chang Hak-no, Kim Mu-song, Kim Kil-hwan and Kim To are controlling the Blue House. Having some from the Presidential Secretaries' Office, So Chong-won and Kim U-sok undertake the posts of first minister of state and national construction minister, respectively. These all speak for his love of comrades.

Just like war trophies fall into the hands of the winner, when political power is transferred, it falls into the shadow cabinet. This is a tradition of modern Western democracy in which by election and competition, a regime is changed. Using the same logic, there may be no fault to find with President Kim's appointment of secretaries.

And it may be a natural duty of the boss to appoint men who where with him in the years of opposition, to the posts of the government investment corporations. Some people say "it is a harsh criticism that it is a high-handed personnel administration that those who have followed him for several tens of years to grasp political power, were appointed to some important posts."

But there are some problems. Because President Kim has struggled for power, being surrounded by the intelligence agents, against the military rulers in the past, he was compelled to form his staffs out of the athletic-type men. His staff pool itself has been composed as a form for a challenge to the illegitimate regime rather than for use to administer the state.

In short, his staff pool was not drawn from a wide circle of men. In the visual angle of a president gone beyond an opposition leader, he should have employed able men. The root of the problem seems to lie here.

List of Those in Kim Faction

Government

The Presidential Office: Pak Kwan-yong, Secretary General Yi Won-chong, Senior Secretary for Political Affairs Pak Chae-yun, Senior Secretary for Economic Affairs Hong In-kil, Senior Secretary for Administrative Affairs Kim Ki-si, Chief of Suite Chang Hak-no, Head of First Attached Office Kim Kil-hwan, Secretary for People's Affairs Kim Mu-song, Secretary for Audit and Inspection Kim To, Secretary for General Affairs Kim Chae-sok, Secretary for People's Affairs Kim Tae-hwan, Secretary for General Affairs Pak Yong-hwan, Secretary for Public Information

The Cabinet: Choe Hyong-u, Minister of Home Affairs So Chong-won, First Minister of State Kim U-sok, Minister of National Construction O In-hwan, Minister of Information Han I-hon, Vice Minister of Economic Planning Board Kim To-hyun, Vice Minister of Culture and Sports Yi Kyong-chae, Vice Minister of Information Kim Yong-sun, Aide of Second Minister of State

Cities and Provinces: Choe Ki-son, Mayor of Inchon Pak Tae-kwon, Governor of South Chungchong Province Kim Hyok-kyu, Governor of South Kyongsang Province

National Security Planning Agency: Cho Man-hu, Special Aide of Director Kim Ki-sup, Head of Keynote Office Nam Chu-hong, Aide of Director

Diplomatic Service: Hwang Byong-tae, Ambassador to China

Government Investment Companies: Pak Chong-yul, Chief Director of Elite-Cultivating Foundation Cho Hong-nae, President of Agriculture and Fishery Development Corp Cho Chong-ik, President of Mining Promotion Corp. Paek Yong-ki, President of Telecasting Corp. Yi Chol-hong, President of Oil Pipeline Corp. Won Song-hui, President of Scheelite Corp. Pak Hong-sop, President of Labor and Welfare Corp. O Kyong-ui, President of Horse Affairs Association Kim Yong-kak, Vice President of Horse Affairs Association No Byong-ku, Trustee of Horse Affairs Association Yi Yong-kon, Supervisor of Gas Corp. Yim Chong-kyu, Supervisor of Petroleum Development Corp. Pak Chong-tae, Supervisor of Highway Corp. Kim Han-s, Supervisor of General Chemical Corp. Shim Ui-sok, Supervisor of National Pension Management Corp. Yu To-chae, Chief Director of Sports Promotion Corp. Kim Nam, Chief Director of National Park Management Corp. Kim Tong-uk, Chief Director of National Tourism Corp. Shim Wan-ku, Counselor of Electrical Power Corp.

National Assembly Executives: Hwang Nak-chu, Vice Chairman Shi Sang-u, Chairman of National Defense Committee Chung Chae-mun, Chairman of Foreign Affairs & Unification Committee Kim Pong-cho, Chairman of UR Special Committee Ho Chae-hong, Deputy Floor Leader Pak Hui-bu, Deputy Floor Leader Cha Sang-hwan, Secretary to Chairman

Democratic-Liberal Party

Counselors: Kim Myong-yun, Kwon O-tae

Committee Members: Hwang Myong-s, Kim S-han, Kim Chong-s, Kim Dok-yong

Executive Members: Mun Chong-su, Secretary General Kang Sam-chae, Head of Keynote Office Paek Nam-chi, Head of Second Policy Coordination Office No Song-u, Head of Policy Research Office Son Hak-kyu, Vice Spokesman Yu Song-kyu, Chairman of Kangwon Province Branch Shin Yong-son, Publicity Manager Cho Ik-hyon, Head of Accountants' Department Kim Tong-hyop, Head of Agriculture and Fisheries Department Kim Kyong-tu, Head of Policy Department

Incumbents: Assemblymen Song Tu-ho, Kang Shin-ok, Yu Song-hwan, Kim Chan-u, Kim Un-hwan, Yi In-chae, Song Chon-yong, Pak Kyong-su, Pan Hyong-shik, Kang In-sop, Yi Kang-tu, Kim Ho-il, Chung Pil-kon, Pak Chong-ung, Yi Yong-sam

Ex-Assemblymen: So Sok-chae, Pak Yong-man, Kim Tong-kyu, Kim Tong-chu

As observed above, in President Kim's personnel management style, there are a few characters. As his political style is of intuition, his personnel management style is of exception.

Unfortunately, such a personnel management pattern as his did not make a good hit. For example, appointing Yi Hoe-chang as prime minister could be said to have been a mistake from the start. Would he have done it in an arrogant mind, having ascended to the top position or in an excessive sense of appearance and popularity? It was already a mistake that he believed he could deal with Yi Hoe-chang, former chairman of the board of audit and inspection, in the same way as his man or an ordinary man thirsting for the post of a minister.

A false start surely brings bad results. In four months or so he had to dismiss Yi Hoe-chang. That process also created displeasure. Later those close to the president censured Yi Hoe-chang all at once and the spokesman of the Democratic Liberal Party declared that only two boards and six agencies fall under the jurisdiction of prime minister. Thus the situation of President Kim was spoiled.

In any time, able men are in short supply on the one hand and in excess on the other.

Able men having wide experiences or having won public recognition have a tendency to have been involved in the previous political power. But there would be many able men who have not worked under the military presidents.

If President Kim gives his mind mainly to "image," "exception," "appearance," "surprise" and "his men" in personnel management, he may fall into errors again and again. As a leader in important times, he should employ sincere and devotional people. Well-conducted personnel management would make all things go well.

Burma

Opposition 'Doubtful' About SLORC's Motives

BK2209044794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 pp A1, 4

[Text] The Burmese opposition has welcomed Tuesday's meeting between Burma's ruling junta and detained popular leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but remains doubtful about Rangoon's motives and believes the military will exploit the talks for political gain.

The opposition and Burmese students believe the meeting was just "a public relations exercise" and that the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) deliberately timed it before the United Nations General Assembly in New York starts its annual debate. Burma's political and human rights abuses are on the world body's agenda.

They called on Slorc to begin "a serious and substantial political dialogue" with Suu Kyi by first releasing her from house arrest and, as a gesture of national reconciliation, abandon the national convention, release all political prisoners and stop all forms of human rights abuse.

Exiled senior Buddhist monk Sayadaw Rewata Dhamma, who met Suu Kyi and Slorc leaders Gen Than Shwe and Lt Gen Khin Nyunt in early August, said the Burmese opposition had "the right to be doubtful" about Slorc's intentions, but that he was "very happy" the two sides had met and was "very confident about the talks".

He said the meeting, the first face-to-face encounter between the two major antagonists on the Burmese political scene, "is just the beginning of a long journey" towards a solution to the ailing political and ethnic problems in Burma.

Burmese state television on Tuesday night broadcast a brief report on the first encounter between Suu Kyi, the winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, and her captors Than Shwe and Khin Nyunt. The 57-second report in English revealed neither the content nor the duration of the talks, but said Suu Kyi called on the two Slorc leaders at the No 1 Defence Services Guest House.

In the broadcast, which showed Suu Kyi wearing a pink traditional Burmese blouse and longyi and the two generals dressed in full army uniform, the three were smiling and talking amicably but no voices were aired. The report said the meeting was "cordial" .

Although Burmese students, opposition and armed ethnic representatives initially welcomed the meeting, they expressed hope that Slorc would release Suu Kyi immediately and continue the talks in the presence of a third party.

A leader of the All Burma Students Democratic Front said the opposition was being kept in the dark, guessing the content and results of Tuesday's talks. "We want to hear from Daw Suu Kyi herself," he said.

The student, who requested anonymity, and other exiled Burmese dissidents shared the view that the meeting was just "another PR exercise" for Slorc, who intentionally exploited it to "relieve pressure and criticism" from the UN members and to "undermine" the annual UN investigation of human rights in Burma.

"Slorc wants to undermine the role of the UN special envoy and show the international community that it can solve problems in Burma without the participation of the United Nations," he added.

In a statement released yesterday, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, which was established in 1990 by a group of exiled elected Burmese MPs, said it hoped the Suu Kyi-Slorc meeting would "develop into a serious and substantial political dialogue".

It added that Suu Kyi, who was unlawfully confined to her Rangoon home since July 1989 and not allowed visitors, "should have free access to the media and the right to communicate and consult with anyone she deems necessary".

"This would ensure that the talks were fair and objective and would gain the respect of others."

The statement also called on Slorc to work towards peace and national reconciliation by abandoning the national convention, an obstacle to reconciliation, unconditionally releasing all political prisoners and stopping all human rights violations.

Another exiled dissident group, the United Front for Democracy and Human Rights in Burma, said the Suu Kyi-Slorc meeting should develop into "a series of sincere, serious and meaningful dialogues", which "must be followed up as soon as possible by an extended dialogue with representatives of all the ethnic peoples and the pro-democracy forces resisting the military regime".

The front called on all parties concerned to start a process of national reconciliation by declaring "a nationwide ceasefire without any preconditions" and extending "a general nationwide amnesty to all concerned" .

Sayadaw Rewata Dhamma told The Nation, in an interview yesterday from England, that he was very happy to learn about the meeting, which was "just the beginning of a long journey" towards a solution to the political and ethnic conflicts in the country.

The Buddhist monk expressed his optimism that the talks process was moving in the right direction and quoted Suu Kyi as telling him during their meetings that "it will take a long time" to talk with Slorc.

The Sayadaw said he did not know what political agenda Suu Kyi had in mind, but he had told her that she "needs to concentrate on unification of all nationalities".

Ask if he believed Slorc was sincere in its talks with Suu Kyi, the monk said: "It is very good that they will continue to talk. Whatever reasons they (Slorc leaders) have (behind their move), it does not matter."

The Sayadaw added that Than Shwe and Khin Nyunt had told him "many times" that they wanted to see a democratic process in Burma, "but people outside do not believe them".

Everybody, he said, "has the right to be doubtful" of Slorc. The military rulers had to solve things slowly. He was "very confident" the talks would lead to an end to the country's political turmoil.

Commentary Views Aung San Suu Kyi-SLORC Meeting

BK2209052894 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Commentary by Larry Jagan from the "Current International Affairs" program on Aung San Suu Kyi's 20 September meeting with SLORC leaders]

[Text] The report on the meeting between the two military leaders of Burma and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was carried on the front page of today's issue of the English-language newspaper THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR. According to Rangoon residents, small groups of people can be seen gathered around newspaper vendors eagerly buying copies of the paper. In response to the demand, the cost of the newspaper doubled today from the normal two kyat to five kyat.

The picture of Aung San Suu Kyi carried in THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR is bigger than the one carried in the Burmese version of the paper, THE MYANMAR ALIN. A government officer acknowledged that the people desire THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR picture because they want to keep it as a souvenir. According to Rangoon residents, the meeting between Aung San Suu Kyi and the two military leaders is no doubt the talk of the town. However, no details about the meeting have emerged.

According to official sources the meeting between Suu Kyi and Senior General Than Shwe and Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt lasted two hours with no other persons present except cameramen and television personnel, and that there is no prospect for any other announcements on the meeting. Rangoon residents believe that prior to the meeting the two sides did not make preconditions for matters to be discussed and agreed not to issue a statement on the results of the meeting. Observers believe that details may be given when Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw delivers his speech at the UN general meeting next month. However, it is certain that more talks between the two sides will take place in the coming months. Government sources say privately that arrangements have been made for another meeting, although the date has not been set.

Observers believe that another meeting is not likely to take place before the UN speech by U Ohn Gyaw.

The ruling SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is likely to have received a full report on the meeting with Suu Kyi by now. It is understood that Sr. Gen. Than Shwe and Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt attended the weekly SLORC meeting following their talks with Suu Kyi. That the two leaders met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is viewed as a significant development and it is clear that there is no difference of opinion over the matter. According to military circles, there are some top senior military officials who opposed the meeting with the detained opposition leader. Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt reportedly told Sayadaw [Buddhist abbot] U Yewata Dhamma [the monk from Birmingham, England who acted as an intermediary between the SLORC and Aung San Suu in August] that there are some within SLORC who oppose meeting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The meeting may have been timed to divert international criticism at the UN General Assembly now under way in New York over the human rights situation in Burma and the refusal of the military to transfer power to the democratically elected government. However, such a meeting with the opposition leader after ignoring her for five years cannot be dismissed as an insignificant undertaking. The Burmese military leaders appear to be ready for talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. What is significant is whether the military leaders are prepared to hold political talks with Suu Kyi and her colleagues from the National League for Democracy [NLD].

It is learned that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is still demanding the release of all political prisoners in Burma, especially U Tin U, co-founder of the NLD; and U Kyi Maung, who took over the NLD chairmanship following the 1989 detention of U Tin U and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

There is no doubt that the international community welcomes yesterday's meeting. However, before acknowledging and accepting that discernible democratic changes have taken place in the Burmese political situation, the international community is likely to want significant concessions from the Burmese military leaders.

As recently as last week, the European Union strongly denounced the Burmese Government's detention early this year of leading NLD leaders, including U Khin Maung Shwe. According to sources in Rangoon, they are currently detained in Insein and are awaiting a court trial. Observers expect them to receive a 20-year sentence.

Although the Burmese Government is prepared to hold talks with the opposition leader, they appear to still be cracking down harshly on any opposition to their rule in the country.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Beijing To Exchange Military Attaches

BK2209022194 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday—Malaysia and China have agreed to station a military attache in Beijing and Kuala Lumpur to enhance military relations between the two nations.

Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said the government has agreed to station a Malaysian military attache in Beijing. A senior officer with the rank of colonel will be sent there next month.

"The Chinese Government will, for its part, station a military attache in Kuala Lumpur soon. The agreement was reached during my talks with Chinese Defense Minister General Chi Haotian. Gen. Chi agreed that military relations between Malaysia and China should be further enhanced," Najib informed reporters after receiving Chi and his delegation in a hotel here today.

Chi Haotian and his 10-man delegation are on a three-day unofficial visit to Malaysia. Yesterday, Gen. Chi held talks with Penang Chief Minister Dr. Koh Tsu Koon.

Najib said Malaysia feels that stationing a military adviser in China is very important for enhancing bilateral relations, particularly in the military field.

Minister Denies Problems With MiG-29 Delivery

BK2109135294 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak has denied foreign reports that Russia is facing problems fulfilling Malaysia's order for MiG-29 aircraft. He told reporters in Kuala Lumpur that the Russian Government has given assurances that it will deliver the aircraft 10-12 months after the signing of the contract.

Malaysia and Russia signed a 1.4 billion ringgit contract in June to purchase MiG-29 aircraft for the Royal Malaysian Air Force. Under the package deal signed with two Russian companies, Malaysia will get 16 MiG-29 Fulcrum single-seat aircraft and two twin-seat MiG-29UB aircraft as well as industrial cooperation and technology transfer from Russia.

Singapore

UK Minister Proposes Enhancement of Defense Ties

BK2109115794 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Britain has proposed enhancing defense relations with Singapore. This could be in the areas of training and military education. British Minister for Defense Procurement Roger Freeman said the cooperation will mean more than just exchanging students. Both sides could also develop expertise in maintaining highly sophisticated equipment and share experiences in developing new uses for old equipment.

Mr. Freeman attended the Five Power Defense Arrangement [FPDA] [Ministers Conference] held here yesterday. He said Britain has benefited by continuing its association with the FPDA. The British armed forces is given the opportunity to operate under a joint command and with new equipment, and its involvement signals Britain's commitment to stability in the ASEAN region.

Cambodia

Tomsen Remarks on Aid to Phnom Penh Criticized

BK2209060994 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Unattributed article: "Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Peter Tomsen's Remarks Clearly Show That the United States Is Continuing To Fan the Flames of the War in Cambodia"]

[Text] Peter Tomsen, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state in charge of Asian and Pacific affairs, repeated earlier remarks by other U.S. officials that the United States will seek aid for the two-headed government.

The world and Cambodian people know well that the two-headed government's Army is arch-corrupt, incapable, and disorganized. No matter what arms aid Peter Tomsen provides them, he can never encourage these traitorous two-headed elements, who are foreign lackeys. In the past 10 years, the guerrilla and people's war waged by the Cambodian people has smashed communist Vietnam's aggressive plan by destroying its 250,000 troops.

In the future, the two-headed government's troops born from the feces of the communist Vietnamese and the Americans will absolutely not be able to fight the guerrillas, Army units, and Cambodian people who are experienced in fighting against the aggressor communist Vietnamese troops.

KR Deplores West, UN Defense of SRV Immigrants

BK2109143594 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Sep 94

["Communique" of the spokesman of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued on 21 September; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. Communist Vietnam and the villainous Western alliance have all along been using the United Nations to legitimize the presence of the 4 million Vietnamese immigrants and to open the door for a systematic, large-scale influx of more Vietnamese pouring in to swallow this country and savagely destroy the Cambodian nation, people, and race.

II. When UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] was here, the villainous Western alliance colluded with UNTAC and communist Vietnam in trampling on the Paris Agreement by refusing to verify the withdrawal of all types of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. At the same time, they issued an inverse law that gave the Vietnamese voting rights and allowed more Vietnamese to pour into Cambodia until there are 4 million now. Their objective was to continue to preserve the regime of communist Vietnam in Cambodia and use it as a beachhead to continue igniting the Vietnamese war in this country, to oppose national reconciliation, and to sabotage the Cambodian peace.

III. Now the villainous Western alliance and communist Vietnam are using the UN secretary general to oppose the Cambodian nation and people's sacred right to resolve the issue of Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia. They use the United Nations to legitimize the presence of the 4 million Vietnamese immigrants and open the door for more Vietnamese to come to this country. In doing so, they are grossly violating the October 1991 Paris Agreement on Cambodia, all international norms, the UN Charter, the 1946 Geneva Convention, and the Cambodian people's right to solve the issue of Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia to save and perpetuate their nation and race.

The Cambodian people and the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] resolutely denounce and condemn the villainous Western alliance and communist Vietnam for using the United Nations to legitimize the presence of the 4 million Vietnamese immigrants. The Cambodian people and the PGNUNS resolutely denounce and condemn the heinous crime perpetrated by the villainous Western alliance against the Cambodian nation. The Cambodian people together with the PGNUNS will struggle even more vigorously and actively to quickly end communist Vietnam's war of aggression and solve the issue of the 4 million Vietnamese immigrants to achieve national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia and defend and perpetuate the Cambodian nation and race forever.

[Dated] 21 September 1994
[Signed] The Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PGNUNS

KR Radio Sees 'Gloomy' Government Situation

BK2209095494 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Station editorial: "The Communist Vietnamese and Villainous Western Alliance Mark the First Anniversary of the Traitorous Two-Headed Government Amid a Gloomy and Desperate Situation"]

[Text] This coming 24 September is the first anniversary of the unnatural birth of the two-headed government conceived by communist Vietnam and the villainous Western alliance.

In what situation do they mark this first anniversary? It is in a gloomy, desperate, and pitch-black situation. Since its birth, the two-headed government has plunged very rapidly. It is now suffering in the throes of death. Villainous Gareth Evans has tried hard to hide this situation, but has failed. He has thus admitted that the Cambodian situation is very serious. The United States also recognizes this serious situation and has declared that time is not on the side of the two-headed government. As a matter of fact, the traitorous two-headed government is being defeated and is collapsing.

Militarily, they have turned from clamorous mobilizing forces which attacked Phnum Chhat and Stoung District into just hiding in their present positions. They have no forces, no supply, and no ammunition. They have lost their initiative and morale, and are waiting for the day when they will be attacked and crushed by the people. Their forces are wiped out with each passing day as they suffer one or two killed or wounded by punji stakes.

Politically the Cambodian nation and people oppose and reject them. The people clearly perceive that they are out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnam and the villainous Western alliance who have allowed their masters to continue kindling war in order to kill Cambodians at will. They have allowed four million Vietnamese to annex Cambodia and communist Vietnam to take a large part of the Cambodian territory, seas, and islands.

To the Cambodian nation and people, the two-headed elements are arch-traitors. Economically and financially, they have nothing left, not even salt or rice to eat. Thus, they must travel around begging others.

In sum, this cursed beast with two heads and three eyes can neither walk nor speak and is lying nearly dead on a piece of rag waiting for its doomsday.

The communist Vietnamese and the villainous Western alliance are jointly marking the first birth anniversary of their ill-fated offspring amid a gloomy and pitch-black situation.

People ask: Last year, the two-headed government still had something, but it could not solve any problems. Now that it is in the throes of death, what can it do?

This situation has greatly alarmed communist Vietnam, the United States, France, and Australia.

No magician can save the two-headed government; it is heading toward total doom in the near future. There will be no second or third of its kind.

Meanwhile, the entire Cambodian nation and people are arranging a genuine national government with the participation of all national forces to solve all national and social problems.

Hun Sen Confirms Cabinet Reshuffle 'Imminent'

BK2109154994 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1001 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP September 21—Second Prime Minister Hun Sen confirmed Tuesday upon his return here from France there would be an imminent cabinet reshuffle.

He said: "Prince Ranariddh already said there will be some change in the cabinet ministers and this issue will happen in [words indistinct]."

The co-prime minister went on to say that the exchange of views between him and Prince Ranariddh on the cabinet reshuffle was made prior to his departure to Paris.

Answering question whether there still will be co-prime ministers in the government, Hun Sen said: "There is no doubt about the co- premier (system); the Constitution mentioned it clearly."

Further on Hun Sen Comments

BK2209100794 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia [KOC], Madame Hun Sen, and a number of prominent officials returned home from Paris, France, at noon on 20 September. The samdech had been in Paris since 2 September for medical treatment.

Speaking to national and international journalists at Pochentong Airport, Samdech Hun Sen stressed: "There have been comments in the past few days that I would not return from this trip to Paris. But now I am back in Cambodia; that is one point. Another point is that the Prince Krompreah [Ranariddh] already said there will be some changes in the cabinet ministers, and this issue will happen in the coming days or weeks. It will not be a big change, just a change to reinforce the cabinet to improve its work efficiency."

Samdech Hun Sen went on to say that the exchange of views between him and the first prime minister on the cabinet reshuffle was made prior to his departure to Paris and that the Prince Krompreah already announced in Takeo Province that there would be a change.

Asked whether Cambodia will continue to have coprime ministers, Samdech Hun Sen stressed: "There is no doubt about this copremiership issue. It is mentioned clearly in the Constitution of the KOC that during the first legislature of the National Assembly, there will be two prime ministers. So, there is no need to discuss or think about this question—whether there should be one or two prime ministers. If only one prime minister is needed, it is better to wait until after the elections in 1998. Therefore, I think it is better not to think about this matter. What will happen is a change of some ministers that will ensure better efficiency within the KOC's Royal Government."

The second prime minister seems to be much thinner and his face is still pale.

Speaking in conclusion about his health, Samdech Hun Sen said: "I still have to get more medical treatment for my illness."

Ranariddh Denies Reshuffle Plans

BK2109162094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 21 (AFP)—Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh has angrily denied reports that he planned to dismiss Cambodia's ministers of foreign affairs and of finance, said the foreign minister Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut issued the denial to refute rumors that he and the often controversial finance minister were about to be sacked.

"His Royal Highness (Prince Ranariddh) just phoned me, and he was very angry about these kinds of rumours," Prince Sirivut told AFP.

Finance Minister Sam Rangsi, who is said to be close to Prince Sirivut, has often alienated members of his own FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, as well as those of its main coalition partner, the Cambodian People's Party, with his outspoken views. The finance minister, however, has won much praise from the international donor community for his economic reforms.

The capital has recently been awash with unconfirmed reports that Sam Rangsi and perhaps even Prince Sirivut would be dismissed or demoted in an imminent cabinet reshuffle.

"(Prince Ranariddh) said he had no intention to remove Sam Rangsi or myself. He is really disappointed with this sort of speculation, which promotes division among the royal government," Prince Sirivut said.

Well-placed political sources, however, said they did not feel 100 per cent certain that Sam Rangsi and Prince Sirivut would retain their posts for longer than the coming months.

Deputy Prime Minister Clarifies Position

BK2109045594 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 21 Sep 94 p 12

[Text] Sar Kheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], who has been appointed deputy prime minister and interior minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, issued a personal statement dated 19 September to specify his position in the CPP and in the Royal Government.

In the statement, which includes three points, Sar Kheng says:

"1. Some newspapers recently disseminated information and analysis saying that I am involved in the power struggle in the CPP and in the Royal Government.

2. As in both the past and present, in my political life I will struggle with a spirit of high responsibility so that Cambodia can genuinely have liberal multiparty democracy and move gradually toward human rights protection and the elimination of corruption, and so that positive progress can be made in Cambodia.

3. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that I do not have political ambitions for personal power and to oppose this or that person, whether in the CPP or in the Royal Government."

It is worth recalling that recently there was news that a plan had already been agreed upon according to which the executive power in Cambodia would be restructured, with only one prime minister. These reports also said that the post of first deputy prime minister is likely to be given to the CPP, which came out second in the recent election.

It was further affirmed that Samdech Hun Sen will not receive this post. This position of first deputy prime minister will be taken up by Sar Kheng.

Sar Kheng used to be office chief of the Central Committee and chairman of the Central Organization Commission, which were important positions in the party at the time when Cambodia was administered by only one party. He is a relative of Samdech Chea Sim who, according to reporters, is in conflict with Samdech Hun Sen.

Sar Kheng is someone who rarely reacts publicly. Analysts think that the above statement could be an official rejection of the information that reporters have been looking for.

Agreement Set With Thailand To Share Oil Yield

BK2009124794 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 19-20 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Kanhnha]

[Text] Participants at a seminar have arrived at a common view that an offshore oil-gas deposit which is within our territorial limits and which is also claimed by Thailand as part of its maritime territory should be designated as "claimed territory" [tam ban teamtea truot khnea]. For the time being, we will only consider the issue economically, meaning we will extract and share the oil with Thailand. As for the question of our territorial integrity, we will settle it later.

Nheap Bunchin, under state secretary of industry, mines, and energy, told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA at a ceremony to close the seminar that prior to 1970 Cambodia had sufficient documents to prove that the oil deposit, presently the "claimed territory," belonged to Cambodia. We even explored the area for oil; while at that time Thailand made no claims at all. But recently the new problem has emerged. Anyway, Cambodia has no intention of creating a conflict and does not want to waste time with a lawsuit; Cambodia does, however, agree to hold economic discussions with the Thai side. He added that the Industry Ministry was waiting for an agreement in principle from the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] and that a discussion on oil exploration will take place soon.

A key Industry Ministry official disclosed earlier that a Cambodian-Thai discussion on an equal share of oil output could possibly be successful because Thailand does not want to become engaged in any lawsuits. But he stressed that the forecast was a personal opinion expressed by senior Thai officials at small informal meetings on oil exploration in the claimed territory.

Pu Sothirak, minister of industry, mines, and energy, told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA upon his arrival from Japan recently that Japanese Idemitsu, Premier Oil, and Mitsui companies intend to invest in oil and gas exploration in the claimed territory. However, they are waiting for a proposal from the Industry Ministry.

Three companies, namely Capex, Enterprise Oil, and Premier Oil have been exploring oil and gas in the Cambodian sea.

At the two-day seminar, prominent international law experts meticulously discussed the common view on oil exploration.

A high-ranking Industry Ministry official indicated that the RGC does not want to delay oil and gas exploration and that it will soon discuss this issue with its Thai counterparts. The holdup of the talks occurred because Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, had a busy schedule. The official added that at the seminar, sponsored by the biggest Australian oil company BHP, Cambodia learned many interesting things, but that it was up to the government to decide. In any case our neighbors, Malaysia and Thailand, also had a similar dispute. However, they were able to reach a settlement, so we should learn from them.

Indonesia

Vice President Try Sutrisno Departs for Sydney

BK2109112394 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Vice President and Mrs. Try Sutrisno and their entourage today left Jakarta for Sydney to begin a three-day visit to Australia. Here is Sudirman Hala, of RRI [Radio Republic of Indonesia], reporting on the departure from Halim Perdanakusuma Airport, Jakarta.

[Begin Hala recording] At 0645 a special DJ-10 aircraft of Garuda Indonesian Airways took off from the airport carrying Vice President and Mrs. Try Sutrisno and their entourage to Sydney, Australia. The coordinating minister for politics and security, coordinating minister for people's welfare, minister of home affairs, Armed Forces commander, Jakarta's governor, and several other senior government officials were present at the airport to see them off.

The vice president's official visit to the neighboring country is at the invitation of the Australian Government, which was extended by the Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, and the (?Royal United Southeast Institute of Australia). [preceding six words in English]

During his visit to Australia, which will last until 23 September, the vice president is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Paul Keating and to appear as the first speaker at a seminar on regional security in the Asia-Pacific toward 2001 at the Australian Armed Forces Academy in Canberra.

The visit is aimed at promoting bilateral friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in the fields of politics, economy, social, culture, defense, and security.

Accompanying the vice president during the visit were Indonesian ministers of defense and security, industry, transmigration and forest settlements, and a minister who is also concurrently the cabinet's secretary. [end recording]

Alatas Rejects Call for East Timor Autonomy

BK2209043894 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas rebuffed calls for greater autonomy for East Timor yesterday, saying Indonesia's youngest province is already enjoying more privileges than others.

"East Timor has autonomy in the substantive sense of the word and yet some people are pursuing the non-essential such as the status of special territory," he told the House of Representatives (DPR) Commission I overseeing foreign affairs.

Alatas said the kind of autonomy that the Indonesian Government offers is the delegation of greater authority to regencies as required by the 1974 Law on Regional Autonomy.

Allowing autonomy to East Timor, the government has divided the small province into 13 regencies whose development is handled directly by Jakarta, he said. The matter of greater autonomy for East Timor came into the limelight when East Timor Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo issued a pastoral letter in July in which he said that "autonomy" may help solve the various problems pressing the province.

Alatas recalled the time when Jakarta flatly rejected a proposal made by Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] leader in exile, Ramos Horta, who demanded autonomy and a referendum to pave the way for his dream of establishing a separate East Timor state.

"In Ramos' scenario, autonomy is only an intermediate target," Alatas said. "The debate (on the autonomy) can go on so long as people use the law and constitution as their frame of reference."

Alatas also cast doubt over the originality of a letter reported to have been smuggled out of a prison cell in Jakarta by imprisoned Fretilin leader Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao.

"It's possible that the letter was written by his accomplice like Ramos Horta. Xanana remains silent about it to make people believe he is smart," he said.

Widely quoted in the Portuguese media, Xanana is said to have alleged in the letter that human rights abuse was still rife in East Timor and that he would not repent for what he had done to seek an independent East Timor.

Alatas stressed that, as in any other country, prisoners in Indonesia are banned from engaging in political activities from their cells. Only correspondence with relatives is allowed, he added. [passage omitted]

Ministers Deny Talks With Jailed Fretilin Chief

BK2209074894 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 14 Sep 94 p 16

[Excerpt] Jakarta, REPUBLIKA—Like Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Justice Minister Utoyo Usman has also denied reported talks between the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] and Xanana Gusmao [jailed leader of the Fretilin or Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor]. They dismissed Western press reports that ABRI elements held talks with the convict. Like Alatas, Utoyo Usman said: "There were no such talks. It is impossible," the justice minister told reporters at the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia on Tuesday.

Yesterday, Alatas denied even more strongly the reported talks on East Timor outside existing channels. Only talks between the Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs under UN auspices are possible.

The justice minister also dismissed a possible written dialogue. "Why would we use letters when we can meet each other directly," he said. Utoyo felt that the rumor was deliberately spread by Fretilin members living abroad, for example by Ramos Horta. "It is a move to enable them to continue to exist and receive financial aid," Utoyo said.

The justice minister also ruled out the possibility of the Fretilin convict smuggling out a letter to Australia and several other countries. "This is also not true. How could he have managed to smuggle a letter out of prison," Utoyo said later.

According to Utoyo, Xanana, who was sentenced to 20 years and who is now serving his jail term at Jakarta's Cipinang Prison, cannot write any letters without the knowledge of the prison chief. He said that all convicts are allowed to send and receive letters only with the knowledge of the prison chief.

A number of foreign mass media reported several days ago that ABRI was holding talks with Xanana, who is now serving his jail term. The talks were said to have taken place on 16 August as a follow-up to talks between ABRI and Dili Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo.

According to the foreign mass media, the talks were held to widen contacts between ABRI and Fretilin. Another rumor was spread later that Xanana reportedly sent a letter to Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating. It was not, however, disclosed how the letter was smuggled out. The same letter reportedly also circulated in several European countries. [passage omitted]

Laos

'Concern' Expressed Over Refugees in Thailand

BK2209065794 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] On the afternoon of 16 September at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Thongsavan Phomvihan, acting chief of the International Organizations Department; and Chuang Mukdasanit, adviser to the Thai Embassy in Laos, held a meeting to discuss the issue of Lao refugees in Thailand.

At the meeting, the two held a wide ranging discussion on cooperation between Laos, Thailand, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] regarding the refugee issue. During the meeting, the acting chief of the International Organizations Department expressed concern about reports carried in the 4 September issue of the Thai daily MATICHON and by the Thai English-language newspaper THE NATION reaffirming a plan to close the refugee camps in Nakhon Phanom and at Napho by 30 September 1994 at the latest. He said the reported announcement on refugee repatriation will discourage the refugees from deciding to return home. On the contrary, it will only cause them to panic and become worried. More importantly, the announcement did not conform to the substance of an agreement reached in the memorandum issued at the seventh tripartite meeting between the Lao and Thai Governments and the UNHCR held in Phatthaya [in Thailand] from 26 to 28 July 1994. At that meeting, the three parties unanimously agreed that repatriation of Lao refugees in Thailand would be completed by the end of this year or early next year. However, no final date was fixed in the memorandum. The department chief pointed out that the Lao Government is always willing and stands ready to receive repatriated refugees on the basis of voluntariness, security guarantees, and pride. The Lao Government always provides land and shelter as well as other facilities to all Lao refugees who voluntarily return home. The adviser to the Thai Embassy noted that the announcement sounded too stern, and said he would forward the Lao side's concern to the Thai Foreign Ministry.

The meeting proceeded under an atmosphere of understanding and frankness.

Philippines

President Interviewed During European Tour

Ramos Seeks Increased Trade

BR1609160194 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Sep 94 p 7

[Report on interview with President Fidel Ramos by Jean-Pierre Clerc in Paris; date not given: "Fidel Ramos: 'Come to Our Country and Do Business'"]

[Text] "I insist, take a cigar! Ours are better than those of a certain communist country I will not name because they are our friends!" Fidel Ramos was talking bluntly: Does Fidel Castro not always have a cigar in his mouth? "I do not smoke, but it is good propaganda for our cigars," he explained with one of the bursts of laughter which sometimes light up the Philippines president who arrived in France on Tuesday, 13 September, for a two-day visit.

Moreover, Mr. Ramos scarcely made any secret—in a tour which had already taken him to Italy and Spain, and will next take him to Belgium and Germany—of the fact that he has come precisely to "sell" his country, as is said in advertising jargon, in other words to make it better known, to announce to all that the time of "political instability, economic stagnation, and natural disasters," which has long characterized the archipelago in a well-known pattern, is now over: "At present our house is in order," Fidel Ramos immediately said, "We want to make it known that this is the time to come to our country and do business."

With Francois Mitterrand, his counterpart, with whom he had just had lunch, and with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, with whom he had talks immediately afterward, he discussed the "areas of tension in Asia—North Korea, Cambodia, and the South China Sea"—but also "the role which the Philippines can play with a view to increasing mutual economic activities, for the greater benefit of France and Western Europe, in this Asia and

Pacific region." And Fidel Ramos became almost lyrical with regard to "40 sites which we are offering industrialists, in particular the areas freed by the former U.S. bases of Subic Bay and Clark."

The "orderly house" is primarily, according to the Philippines president, "a democracy which has now been fully established, even better, if you will forgive me for saying so, than in some Western countries." The main action on which he prides himself is having secured the abolition of the "antisubversive" law of 1957 which had outlawed the Communist Party. The three guerrilla groups which had caused bloodshed in the archipelago, in some cases for many years—in addition to that of the communists, that of the Muslims in the south, and that of some "officers who went astray"—have now been reduced to the point where "in 30 months we have not had any serious incidents, aside from a few terrorist attacks by dissident groups within the rebel groups," Mr. Ramos said.

Reputedly Austere Protestant

Is the aim of this visit to use Europe to balance a rather stifling relationship with the United States, which has long been the tutelary power and has always been the main economic partner, and also with Japan, which now comes second on the Philippines' list of trading partners? This is what Mr. Ramos' entourage is admitting but he does not accept this view. In addition, the head of state explained the prospects of a fairly new military cooperation with France. He took as his hypothetical model a recent agreement with Italy in which the purchase of a "squadron of training aircraft" will be paid for "half in haute couture clothes, shoes, toys, semi-conductors, and other products produced by our industry." With Paris, it is "means of transportation by land, air, and sea" which Mr. Ramos deems to be the most promising sphere.

A Protestant deemed to be austere in a predominant Catholic country, the Philippines president launched passionately into a martial discourse: "We were late in starting, but we intend to catch up with our Southeast Asian neighbors. Our strategic position, our capacity for thinking in international terms, our abundant resources: Everything demonstrates that our potential is great." And Fidel Ramos, concluding the interview, gave LE MONDE a voluminous file entitled: "The Philippines, a return to business in the gate to Asia and the Pacific."

Ramos on Regional Security, Japan

BR1909160294 Paris LE POINT in French 17 Sep 94 p 16

[Interview with President Fidel Ramos by Olivier Weber in Paris; date not given: "'Soon We Will Be a New Dragon'"—first paragraph is LE POINT introduction]

[Excerpts] As Corazon Aquino's successor at the presidency of the Philippine Republic, Fidel Ramos has set himself the job of rekindling the economy and stabilizing political life. It is a difficult task in a country ruined by the reign of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos and where, until recently, the military easily left their barracks. Ramos, a former general and leading figure in the popular insurrection which contributed to Marcos' fall in 1986, answered LE POINT's questions during his visit to Paris. [passage omitted]

[Weber] With the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and China's and Vietnam's claims in the China Sea, is the region's stability in danger?

[Ramos] The recent developments indicate that stability needs to be guaranteed. We are very concerned about these tensions and are trying to initiate a diplomacy of dialogue. I have been to Vietnam to request the demilitarization of the Spratly islands. As for Korea, we hope that dialogue between the two countries will resume soon.

[Weber] Will you support Japan's candidacy for a place in the UN Security Council?

[Ramos] Given the importance and influence of Japan today, and its economic weight, we would like it to have a place in the Council.

Agreement Signed With Russia To Open Consulate

BK2209073794 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] An agreement was reached today between the Philippines and Russia. House Speaker Jose De Venecia signed on behalf of the Philippines while Aleksandr (Vinchirovskiy) of the Russian Federation represented his country. De Venecia said the accord stipulates the establishment of a Philippine consulate in Vladivostok that will enhance cooperation between the two countries. He stressed that the pact clearly demonstrates Russia's desire to help develop Asian countries.

Thailand

Watthana's Libel Charge Against U.S. Dismissed

BK2209044094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 p A5

[Text] The defamation charges brought by Chat Thai deputy leader Watthana Atsawahem against the US Ambassador to Thailand, David Lambertson, and US Information Service director, John M Reid were dismissed yesterday by the Criminal Court, a court official said. The US ambassador claimed diplomatic immunity according to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 to which, Thailand is a member, Tan Wetwai, Chief Justice of Criminal Court, said. The implication of the convention, and according to Thai law, no lawsuit can be bought against an American diplomat in a Thai court, he said.

The litigation was initiated by Watthana after there had been adverse publicity over the refusal by the US government to allow the MP an entry visa on suspicion that he was involved in drug trafficking. Watthana alleged that the US envoy and the USIS chief had begun the publicity, damaging his reputation.

The court admitted Watthana's charges against the Americans were validated, and asked the Justice Ministry to have the Foreign Ministry inquire if the American pair would waive their immunity so they could argue the case in court.

Charges against Lambertson, Tan said, had been dismissed, adding that by implication, those against Reid must also be dismissed. Normally, the chief justice reasoned, a secretary with a diplomatic mission is covered by immunity and, therefore, so was Reid.

Japanese Trade Minister in Bangkok on Visit

Dismisses Trade-Labor Linkage

OW2209074694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 22 Sep 94

[By Keiji Urakami]

[Text] Bangkok, Sept. 22 KYODO—Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Thursday [22 September] spoke out against emerging moves by some countries to link trade and labor standards, terming them "protectionist-inspired actions."

"Amid the global trend toward freer trade, we must not allow ourselves to overlook such actions that threaten Asia's own comparative advantage," Hashimoto said in a speech delivered to the Japanese and Thai business communities in Bangkok.

Hashimoto said, "outspoken commentators in certain leading industrial nations" have voiced alarm that Asian goods made with comparatively low labor costs could serve to deprive their home markets of some employment. But Japan has "consistently and firmly opposed the idea of establishing new global trade rules aimed principally at blocking the influx of cheaply manufactured goods" into the advanced countries, he said.

Hashimoto was commenting on a new source of trade friction emerging between industrial countries and developing countries over labor-related issues. The linkage between trade and labor standards became a major political issue in the Detroit "job summit" in March and the Naples summit of the Group of Seven industrialized countries in July.

Key industrial countries such as the United States have blasted low wages and poor working conditions in developing nations as exports of unemployment to their countries.

"The advanced nations should instead pursue ambitious undertakings in structural adjustment, namely by bolstering job growth through the cultivation of new industries in telecommunications and other sophisticated fields," Hashimoto said.

Hashimoto, in Thailand to attend a trade ministerial meeting between Japan and ASEAN on Saturday, delivered the speech to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangkok and Thai business groups, including the Federation of Thai Industries, the Board of Trade and the Thai Bankers Associations.

On Japanese aid to ASEAN countries, Hashimoto said Japan will not spare efforts in fostering product component industries in the region in line with a Japanese plan introduced at last year's Japan-ASEAN economic ministerial meeting. The Asia Supporting Industry Action Program mainly features dispatch of technical experts to ASEAN countries and Japan's acceptance of trainees from the area.

"In the years ahead, it will be essential to nurture the development of supporting industries such as metal dies and casts, and plastic forms," he said.

Hashimoto also said Japan will provide necessary assistance in developing human resources in ASEAN, saying it will support the business volunteer program proposed by Thailand. The plan, unveiled by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likhpai at the informal summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle last year, calls for effective use of retired engineers in leading countries for industrial development in Asia.

"Japan stands ready to do everything within its power to see that the program materializes," Hashimoto said.

As part of infrastructure improvement and structural reform efforts in ASEAN, Japan will take an initiative in nurturing small companies in the region.

Hashimoto said he will host the APEC ministerial conference on small companies to be held in Osaka next month.

"Cultivating small- and mid-size business ventures is yet another undertaking I would like to recommend as a means of improving the structural sophistication of Asian industry in the years ahead," he said.

Hashimoto underscored the need for full use of international funding institutions as a way to meet "tremendous" fund demand in ASEAN in the future. Some estimates show at least 120 billion dollars are needed in development projects in ASEAN over the coming five years, Hashimoto said.

"It will likely prove imperative that ASEAN countries mobilize all financial resources at their disposal—not only their own development budgets but also the resources of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other international lending institutions, as well as bilateral government loans, publicly backed export credits and private-sector capital," he said.

Meets Prime Minister Chuan

OW2209140594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Bangkok, Sept. 22 KYODO—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likhpai called Thursday [22 September] for Japanese cooperation in developing Indochina because of slow progress in Thai investment in the region, a Japanese official said. Chuan made the comment when he met with Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's minister of international trade and industry, the official said.

Hashimoto is in Thailand to meet with economic ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), who are getting together in the northern Thai city of Chiangmai for the 26th ASEAN economic ministerial meeting.

Hashimoto told Chuan he would like to discuss how to cooperate with Indochinese nations when he meets with ASEAN economic ministers on Saturday, the official said.

Hashimoto made a courtesy call on the Thai premier before flying to Chiangmai.

Al-Arqam Coordinator Denies Charges on Violence

BK2209041094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 p A5

[Excerpt] Al-Arqam sect coordinator Muhammad Adam has rejected remarks by Malaysian Ambassador Zainal Abidin Bin Alias likening the sect to the suicide-pact cults of Jim Jones and David Koresh, saying sect followers never resorted to violence.

Muhammad, in a letter to THE NATION said although sect members were bullied and ill-treated by the Malaysian government under the Mahathir administration, no sect member had ever reacted violently. Al-Arqam followers had never even staged a rally to protest against unjustified government orders. He said permission to publish newspapers and magazines had also been revoked without justification.

Muhammad said he believed the ban on the group was issued because Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed feared losing power, not because the sect was a threat to public order and national security. He urged the Malaysian government to take legal proceedings against the detained sect followers. The Internal Security Act, under which they are being held, allows indefinite detention without trial. He said it was found only in Malaysia and Singapore.

Muhammad said Zainal's remark that the group was founded by Sheikh Suhaimi was incorrect. It was founded in 1968 by Ashaari Mohammad. He said Malaysia's Religious Council should have called talks before the sect was banned. The sect was willing to answer all questions and had prepared a discussion booklet on the issue, but it was banned by the council.

Zainal had claimed in a letter to The Nation defending the ban on the sect that Ashaari refused invitations to talk with the Religious Council.

Muhammad also denied that the sect leader Ashaari had trained a suicide squad. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Aung San Suu Kyi-SLORC Meeting

BK2209044394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 p A6

[Editorial: "Slorc Talks With Suu Kyi Mark Promising First Step"]

[Text] The 57-second Rangoon Radio report that announced Aung San Suu Kyi's meeting with Burma's military leaders on Tuesday offered little in the way of details but raised much hope that the troubled country may finally be on the path to reconciliation.

The talks were the first that the charismatic opposition leader has had with leaders of the junta which took power in September 1988 after crushing a pro-democracy uprising.

Most importantly, they indicate that Slorc [State Law and Order Restoration Council] has come to the realization that it can no longer ignore Suu Kyi, whose NLD [National League for Democracy] party won 80 percent of the vote in 1990's general election, if it is reintegrate the country into the international community.

After initially dismissing Suu Kyi as a non-factor, and then resorting to various strategies to force her to leave the country, the junta now finds itself edging towards a position the opposition has long advocated—that if Burma is going to overcome its numerous political and economic woes it will need to involve all the factions concerned.

The meeting with Suu Kyi follows a series of initiatives launched by Rangoon, which on the surface at least, appear to mark progress towards peace if not democracy. Among them are the release of hundreds of political prisoners and agreements on ceasefires with nearly all of the ethnic insurgencies that have been battling Rangoon for the past 40 years.

The Slorc's moves have not come without suspicion that its real intentions are to split the opposition and further cement its iron- fisted rule. And the timing of the talks with Suu Kyi—coming just two days before the UN general assembly opens its annual session during which it is scheduled to debate human rights abuses in Burma—have aroused some scepticism again.

Significantly, the official report of the talks with Suu Kyi followed another much longer story calling for Slorc officials across the country to report on the progress that has been made under the junta's six years in power.

To some observers, it was a sign the junta has no plans to relinquish the reins of government anytime soon.

To prove its many critics wrong, Slorc has much to do. The talks with Suu Kyi, who to many is a powerful symbol of the pervasive repression in Burma, would make a good start. To have any impact, though, the meeting will have to grow from what was essentially a public relations exercise into a serious and substantial political dialogue.

The list of human rights abuses committed by Slorc remains long and unaddressed. Thousands of political dissidents remain imprisoned and tens of thousands of villagers continue to be gang-pressed into the Slorc's military and engineering campaigns, especially in the ethnic minority areas.

The national convention that has enshrined a ruling role for the military in Burma's future constitution must be abandoned as an obstacle to peace for it is neither representative of the people nor does it have any legal foundation to undertake such an important task.

Burma's generals have indicated that they see a role for themselves similar to the one played by Suharto and the Indonesian army, which is guaranteed a political role as a bulwark against instability.

A truer parallel, however, may be found in South Africa where a minority government used a wide array of unjust legal measures, backed by a vicious security apparatus to keep themselves in power. In the end though, the white Pretoria government, isolated and economically weakened, found it could no longer ignore the influence of the long-imprisoned Nelson Mandela.

Slorc leader Than Shwe and first secretary general Khin Nyunt have taken an important first step in meeting Suu Kyi. But the path ahead to national reconciliation will be a long one that will require many more.

Aviation Official Reports Progress on Laos Aid

BK2109155594 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Sisuk Chantharangsu, director general of the Commercial Aviation Department, reported that the Foreign Ministry yesterday sought approval from the Cabinet to extend for another year the implementation of a budget allocated to help Laos improve and construct the airport of Luang Prabang. Implementation of the budget, at 50 million baht, will be carried over from September 1994 to September 1995.

The Commercial Aviation Department reported to the cabinet that it had selected the Aviation Company as contractor for the project. After the cabinet approval, the company will be able to start work, which will be completed within 20 months. The responsibilities of the company include construction of the passenger terminal, facilities covering an area of 2,500 square meters, a five-storey air control tower, reinforcement work, improvement of lighting system, fences, and landscaping.

Laos requested more help, but the Thai Government could only provide aid at the current level. In the future, the Aeronautical Radio Company of Thailand will take charge of building the air traffic control system for the Vientiane airport. Sisuk said the department plans to sign a contract with the Aviation Company in October.

Army Officer Says SRV Still 'Security Threat'

BK2209051894 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 94 p A5

[Text] The military still regards Vietnam as a security threat to Thailand although it agrees that the Cold War is over. The military's opinion was aired yesterday at a meeting of senior armed forces officers who have jointly drafted defence strategies for the 1995-99 period.

One of the officers, Lt Gen Phunsak Nakphat, a general staff officer for the army commander, said the Cold War is over because most socialist countries have turned to democratic systems. But, Phunsak said, Vietnam remains a security threat because its booming economy will allow it to spend more on defence.

Phunsak, in his capacity a chairman of the national defence committee, said if Vietnam was able to develop its military capability much more, Hanoi might try to interfere in Cambodian affairs again. He said if Vietnam became a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), the security threat from Hanoi could be reduced.

"The present situation provides no indication that Vietnam would invade Thailand within the five-year period," Phunsak said. "But Vietnam is still a potential security threat to Thailand."

Phunsak said disputes over the Spratly Islands between Vietnam and China could also affect Thai cargo vessels which had to pass the islands.

* Implications of Police Lese Majeste Case Discussed

94SE0211A Bangkok ATHIT in Thai 15-21 Jul 94 pp 22, 23

[Text] There have been reports that Police Lieutenant General Chaisit Kanchanakit, the commissioner of the Bangkok Metropolitan Police, whose nickname is "Nakak Sua" [tiger mask] and who is said to be a very honest police officer, has been charged with lese majeste. This stems from an interview he gave after he was put in charge of the royal traffic project in place of Police Lieutenant General Chamlong Yiamchaengphan, the former metropolitan police commissioner who is now serving as the assistant director-general of the Police Department. As a result of this case, the present metropolitan police commissioner may have to leave his position earlier than expected.

Lt. Gen. Chaisit sent a letter to his boss, that is, the minister of interior, explaining what happened on 9 March 1994. In this letter, he stated that on that day, Police Colonel Boribun Wutiphakdi, the deputy commander of the Northern Bangkok Metropolitan Police, informed him that the director-general of the Police Department had ordered him to go and get 108 motorcycles in accord with the royal project in order to take over from Police Lt. Gen. Chamlong, the former metropolitan police commander. Later on, he held a meeting to solicit ideas in order to ensure that this project would achieve good results. He also mentioned the statements that were made during this meeting. One of the words used was "ai" [term denoting contempt]. But he said that there was no intent to insult anyone.

An article on this meeting appeared in the 12 March 1994 issue of the SIAM POST. The article stated that "Lt. Gen. Chaisit talked about the reassignment of tasks this time. He said that in the past, the central traffic policemen assigned to carry out royal projects have included both new and highly knowledgeable policemen, and so concrete results have not always been achieved. It's like grinding shrimp paste and dissolving it in the river. There is a lack of expertise." The news focused on the replacement of the person in charge of the royal project. Police Lt. Gen. Chamlong, the man who used to be in charge of the project, was asked, "Do you think that your power has been reduced?" He responded by saying, "I can't say anything. When an order is given, I have to obey it. If I said anything, people would accuse me of opposing my superiors." Also, as a result of this reshuffle, in an interview, Wiraya Chawakun expressed her opposition to this. In particular, she said that Lt. Gen. Chaisit's statement that this royal project was like grinding shrimp paste and dissolving it in the river was incorrect and very inappropriate.

Just a few days after reports appeared about this reshuffle, which affected those in charge of looking after this royal project, at 1330 on 22 March 1994, Mr. Ekkachai Thapananon, age 40, a lawyer with the Nitichon Law Office located at 27 Sukhaphiban Road 1, Bangkok, met with Police Colonel Chaloemchat Sitanon, the deputy commander of the Suppression Division, and Police Major Thawi Sotsong, an inspector with Section 4, Precinct 2, Suppression Division, at the Suppression Division. He gave them some documents and said that in that interview, Police Lt. Gen. Chaisit had disparaged the royal project. The article in the 23 March 1994 issue of the SIAM POST stated that "an old pole in the Police Department is harassing the metropolitan police commissioner."

At 1400 on 11 April 1994, Mr. Ekkachai met with Suppression Division officials again in order to confirm that charges will be filed against Police Lt. Gen. Chaisit. A news report stated that when Mr. Ekkachai went to inform them that charges will be filed, a group of Village Scouts presented him with a bouquet of flowers to provide moral support for his action. On 9 June 1994, about 10 Village Scouts led by Mr. Prasoet Kanchanathamaya from the Pomprap Satru Phai zone Village Scouts submitted a letter to General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the minister of interior, asking that he file criminal charges against Police Lt. Gen. Chaisit.

Then at 1300 on 5 July 1994, Police Major General Wannarat Khotrak, the commander of the Suppression Division, Police Colonel Chumkphom Manmai, the deputy commander of the Suppression Division, and Police Major Thawi Sotsong, an inspector with Section 4, Precinct 2, Suppression Division, took the file on the investigation of this case and met with Police General Prathin Santipraphop, the director-general of the Police Department. Police Gen. Prathin asked the mass media to be careful when publishing stories about this, because this is a very delicate matter. He also replaced two of the people in charge of the investigation in order to speed it up. On 6 July, Police Major General Wannarat said that "the investigation has been completed, and our views have been submitted to our superiors. The director-general of the Police Department has ordered us not to say anything about this." In the 5 July 1994 issue of KHAO SOT, the "Wong Tawan" columnist mentioned the possibility of the metropolitan police commissioner being removed from his position because of this lese majeste case.

Recently, news reports have stated that the file on this case has been turned over to the Legal Affairs Division, Police Department, for a decision on whether or not to file charges. Police Lt. Gen. Chaisit Kanchanakit, the metropolitan police commissioner, has sent a letter to his superiors explaining this matter. On 7 July, almost all television newscasts showed pictures of Lt. Gen. Chaisit as he was interviewed by reporters about this matter. Looking at his face, many people were speechless. Moreover, all that he could say was "I don't have anything to say."

It seems that the officials investigating this case have experienced difficulties ever since charges were filed. One of the two officials who were removed has been identified as Police Colonel Chaloemchat Sitanon, the former deputy commander of the Suppression Division, who has been transferred and appointed deputy police commander in Kanchanaburi Province. The reason given was that this would speed up the investigation. The other has been identified as Police Colonel Anan Diprasoetwit, the deputy commander of the Suppression Division. It's said that he was removed because he is a member of the same class as Police Lt. Gen. Chaisit. It was feared that the matter would not be dealt with fairly.

Reports stated that the investigation officials carried out their duties very carefully. A committee was even established to consider the evidence. Also, the views of reporters, law professors from various universities, members of the Bar Association, and senior members of the Royal Academy were solicited concerning the strongest statement, that is, "the royal project is like grinding shrimp paste and dissolving it in the river." Besides this, a news report stated that in a letter of apology written by Lt. Gen. Chaisit, he said that he had "made a mistake." And there have been signs indicating that this case will move in the direction predicted by the KHAO SOT columnist who is close to circles in the Police Department. In conclusion it was said that he is "awaiting punishment."

Dr. Prawet Wasi, a leading citizen, talked about Thai society and the lese majeste case during an interview with ATHIT on 24 June. He said:

"Thai society is still undeveloped. It is still backward. People are naive and can be aroused easily. The tendency is to arouse people and divide Thais into two groups, the loyal and the disloyal. As I have said, if someone wants to change and improve things, others will accuse him of trying to destroy the monarchy. That will lead to violence. Things cannot be done that way in Thai society. People should not use the nation, religion, or the monarchy as a tool to attack others. We need to agree that the nation, religion, and the monarchy must be kept above other things and not be used in political conflicts. This must be the common framework. Things must always be done within a framework. Politics needs a framework. But we lack a framework. People like to use the nation, religion, and the monarchy to attack each other. This will cause a great upheaval in society. If people are divided into two groups, the loyal and the disloyal, think what will happen. Thus, we must not do this. Those involved in this must be stopped. I think that we need to promulgate a law on the nation, religion, and the monarchy that prohibits people from using these institutions to make political attacks against other people. If people can attack others like this, the country will experience great problems. This issue shows signs of this. It's as if people are charging others with committing lese majeste without any grounds for doing so. And this is being used to arose people."

Charges of lese majeste have unexpectedly changed the lives of many people. That was the case with one well-known politician, Mr. Wira Musikaphong, during the period that he was the secretary general of the Democrat Party and deputy minister of interior. He gave a speech in support of a fellow party member, Mr. Phonthep Techaphaibun, in Buriram Province in July 1986. That enabled certain powerful military officers such as Lieutenant General Sunthon Khongsomphong and Lieutenant General Phichit Kunlawanit to gain control. Wira Musikaphong had to apologize in the reception hall at parliament. Because of that incident, Wira has remained outside parliament to this day. Sulak Siwarak, or S. Siwarak, a well-known writer, is another person who was charged with lese majeste in 1984. But the prosecutor decided not to prosecute him. When he made similar statements in 1991 during the event "Six Months RSC, the Disaster of Thai Society and Retreat of Democracy," however, he was again charged with committing lese majeste and has been in court ever since.

The person who was dealt with the quickest after being charged with lese majeste was probably Police General Sawat Amonwiwat, who was removed from his position as director-general of the Police Department immediately after Mr. Phiraphon Lawongsa, a lawyer from Nakhon Ratchasima Province, filed lese majeste charges against him with the Suppression Division on 13 October 1993. Similar charges were filed by an MP from Sakon Nakhon Province, Warrant Officer Phisan Siribun. In the wake of this, foreign newspapers, the HONOLULU and DAILY EXPRESS, were banned. The articles appearing in those papers had been signed by the director-general of the Police Department. Because of this, Police Gen. Sawat was removed from his position as director-general of the Police Department and made an inspector with the Ministry of Interior.

Lese majeste charges were filed again when Pilot Officer Chalat Worachat went on a hunger strike in front of parliament. Because of his action, the number of demonstrators continued to increase. On 14 June 1994, Dr. Prasit Phithunkitcha, a former MP from Nakhon Sawan Province, filed sedition and lese majeste charges against Pilot Officer Chalat. This case has still not been resolved. Now, similar charges have been filed against Police Lt. Gen. Chaisit Kanchanakit, the metropolitan police commissioner, who has held this position for less than 6 months. It looks like his career will end, too, once the lawyer, Mr. Ekkachai Thapananon, takes action.

* Army Spokesman Warns Social Critic Over Remarks

94SE0224A Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 30 Jul 94 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At the office of the Royal Thai Army [RTA] secretary on the morning of 29 July 1994, Col. Phalangkun Klahan, an RTA spokesman, made an announcement to reporters concerning an RTA position. [passage omitted]

The RTA spokesman also said that in the past there had been some individuals with unfavorable opinions of the RTA who tried to slander the RTA with lies or tried to get personal revenge. There may have been some who were misled by their statements, and this may have affected the RTA. Therefore he requested to be permitted to point out that the RTA had always tried to do the best it could and that with regard to these past charges he wanted to inform everyone that that they were completely false. There may have been many involved, but he wanted to provide the example of one person, Mr. Sulak Siwarak or Mr. S. Siwarak. He was a person who had always had an unfavorable opinion of the RTA. The RTA had tried to reach an understanding with him many times to no avail. He had spoken ill of the RTA many times in various places. His statements had always been false. He had influenced others and made them think that the RTA was evil, obstructed the administration in a democratic system, was dictatorial, and cooperated with others in their violation of human rights.

In any case the RTA kept close track of the activities of Mr. S. Siwarak. The last time he made a harmful statement about the RTA was at a meeting at Thammasat University. His intention was to cause people to lose confidence in the RTA. The only reason he did this was out of personal resentment, displeasure, or ill will toward the RTA. The spokesman said that the RTA had a great deal of manpower, and, most important, the RTA commander in chief stressed building unity in thinking as well as training and instruction to believe firmly in promoting the well-being of the nation. Such being the case anyone who spoke ill of the RTA for no reason was apt to cause displeasure within the ranks, which could cause serious incidents. The RTA did not want there to be serious incidents. The RTA commander in chief always stressed restraint and sacrifice. In any case it was the duty of every Thai to help the nation progress and prosper on the basis of love and solidarity. But because of all this it had to be admitted that their way of thinking might be different. The RTA wanted to make clear to the people its position and intentions, the RTA spokesman said.

Colonel Phalangkun asked of Mr. S. Siwarak that he please reform his thinking and his slander of the RTA because what he had done would hurt people in general. The RTA stated honestly that it was performing its duties for the public to the fullest. In particular it supported human rights completely. It wanted to explain that this slander caused hatred within the nation which should be condemned. Correspondents asked if S. Siwarak would be charged for making allegations against the RTA. Colonel Phalangkun said that they were in the process of gathering as much information and evidence of his various criticisms as possible, but the RTA commander in chief was not considering retaliation. [passage omitted]

* Acquisition of Swiss Air Defense System Noted

94SE0221B BAN MUANG in Thai 29 Jul 94 p 23

[Text] At the airfield of the 1st Wing, 2d Air Division, General Charun Phunsanong, the Armed Forces chief of staff, Supreme Command, and Air Chief Marshal Kriangkrai Sinthawanon, the Air Force chief of staff, presided at a ceremony to take delivery of an ADATS anti-aircraft missile battery. Attending the ceremony were senior officers from the three military services. They served as eye-witnesses and expressed joy over the fact that the Air Force has increased its combat capabilities.

Rear Admiral Sumethi Muangman, the deputy chief of the Directorate of Joint Logistics, addressed the Armed Forces chief of staff and the Air Force chief of staff as follows:

"Sirs, I would like to give you some background on the purchase of the ADATS missile battery. The purpose of this program was to procure an air defense missile system for use in conjunction with the Sky Guard radar fire-control system, which the Air Force is already using. This will increase our air defense capabilities. The minister of defense considered this program carefully. He saw that this was important and necessary and so he authorized the program on 1 June 1993 at a cost of 403 million baht. After that, the Supreme Command purchased one rocket battery from the Swiss Oerlikon Contraves Company. The purchase contract was signed on 30 December 1993 in accord with contract No 3/642/2536. Before delivering the battery, in order to assure officials that the missile system would work in conjunction with the Sky Guard radar fire-control system, the Oerlikon Contraves Company demonstrated the firing of ADATS missiles for officials. This demonstration was conducted at the 53d Wing in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province on 22 April 1994. That demonstration was witnessed by the minister of defense, the supreme commander, foreign military attaches, and senior military officers. The results of the demonstration were very satisfying, and so the company delivered the weapons to the inspection committee in accord with the contract. The committee completed its inspection on 3 May 1994.

"On this auspicious occasion, I would like to ask the Armed Forces chief of staff to officially turn over the ADATS missile battery to the air force."

Reporters asked the Air Force chief of staff and the Armed Forces chief of staff about the capabilities of the ADATS anti-aircraft missile. In short, they said that this missile will be used for defensive tactical purposes if we are attacked. Stated simply, it will be used for defensive rather than offensive purposes. It has a system for monitoring enemy attacks and provides data on events as they unfold using a computer. This makes it very efficient in retaliating against targets, including low-level targets. Also, it can fix on several targets simultaneously such as air and ground targets. This is a laser-guided missile, and the laser beam cannot be destroyed by the enemy.

Yes, we all have to be happy that the Air Force has strengthened its capabilities in defending Thailand's territorial air space.

* Minister on Inflation, Income Distribution

94SE0222A Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 25 Jul 94 p 8

[Interview with Finance Minister Tharin Nimanhemin, date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [NAEO NA] The target for inflation was set at 4.5 percent this year. But inflation is now higher than the target. What effects will this have?

[Tharin] Inflation is one of the main concerns of the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Thailand, and the

Ministry of Commerce, which constantly have to monitor inflationary pressures. As far as the Finance Ministry is concerned, we monitor both fiscal and monetary aspects.

On the fiscal front, we have set a foundation by formulating a balanced budget in order to reduce inflationary pressures, particularly pressures stemming from increasing the salaries of government officials. One of our principles is a balanced budget. Thus, even though expenditures have increased, tax revenues have increased by a similar amount. This has reduced the pressure. On the fiscal front, we have to be very disciplined.

On the monetary front, we are monitoring things. We are now watching to see what adjustments the market apparatus will make. The market apparatus usually purges itself. For example, whenever inflationary pressures arise, interest rates have to rise within the market. Or this could be affected by the actions taken abroad. For example, if the Federal Reserve raises rates, that will affect us. And it depends on the exchange rate policy, too. Thus, we don't have to touch this.

We are now monitoring the situation. In June, inflation rose slightly more than expected. I have tried to find out the reasons for the rise. Most of the rise was in food and agricultural goods, and there was a slight rise in the price of oil.

We will definitely continue monitoring this. We have to monitor this so that inflation does not get out of hand. But when the economy is good, inflation has to rise some. That is only natural. But we must keep inflation from rising too much. Suppose, for example, that farmers get a higher price for their products. If their real incomes are reduced by inflation, then they won't have gained anything. That is one important reason why we have to monitor this.

Another reason is that if we don't keep a close watch on inflation, we will have problems regarding trade competition on world markets. Our production costs will be higher than those of our competitors. Thus, we don't monitor things just here. We have to compare things with our neighbors and competitors. If I remember correctly, of the 11 countries that are competitors of ours on world markets, there are now three with inflation rates lower than ours. The others all have higher rates of inflation.

As far as fiscal policy is concerned, our present policy is not to use treasury reserves. Because of this, we have proposed a balanced budget. As far as monetary policy is concerned, we will wait and see if the market apparatus is working. We will wait and see what the actual situation is like. If it really becomes necessary to implement a tighter monetary policy, we will do so. At present, our target for inflation is 4.5 percent for the year. [passage omitted]

[NAEO NA] Does this have anything to do with skill?

[Tharin] I don't want to answer that. (laughs)

In general, our economic policy is composed of three major lines. If you have been following our work, I can tell you what we have done.

First, we have tried to facilitate constant economic growth and modernization. We have an open economy that competes on world markets. This system is part of everyday life. Second, there must be stability. What does the word stability mean. It means that inflationary pressures are at an acceptable level, that the current accounts deficit is not too great, and that the quality of the monetary system is good and there is confidence. These are the components of stability. Third are the important lines of the government. This is the first administration that attaches great importance to distributing growth in order to overcome the imbalances in our country's economic and social system. There are the issues of incomes, opportunities in life, the lack of sufficient important public services in the rural areas, and the fact that the agricultural sector has not kept pace with other sectors. And an issue to which much attention must be given is the issue of preserving the environment and conserving our natural resources.

This policy is quite clear, and we are following this policy. Regardless of what people say, we are following this policy. If you look at what the Finance Ministry is doing, you will see that we are doing things in accord with the above lines. Take adjusting the financial markets, for example. The financial markets have been opened up. That is part of enhancing the economy. Or take reforming Thailand's customs system. That, too, is part of enhancing the economy. AFTA, GATT, and APEC all have to do with this. Exerting pressure to create an economic triangle is aimed at enhancing the economy.

Besides this, there is the distribution of industry to the provinces, the promotion of investment in Zone 3, and the distribution of industrial estates to the provinces. I have implemented many monetary measures, such as MRM interest measures and the job creation measures of the Bank for Agriculture and Cooperatives. And the Government Savings Bank has been turned into a rural development bank. Other measures include expanding the branches of the finance companies in the provinces to have them serve as credit offices, expanding foreign financial activities in the provinces, and enabling companies in the provinces to mobilize capital on the securities market. [passage omitted]

* Profiles of Amnui Party Leading Personalities

94SE0230A Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Behold the 14 'Friends of Amnui' Placing the Cornerstone of the Thai Leadership Party"]

[Excerpts] After venturing to announce from across continents in the United States the founding of the Thai Leadership Party, "Amnui Wirawan," a former deputy prime minister and the brave person who plucked the petals of the sunflower, flew back to Thailand through lightning and rain to announce the names of the 14 who would found the Thai Leadership Party on the night of 19 July. [passage omitted]

One certainly had to put "Super K.," Kasem Chatikawanit, first. We do not have to relate all his qualities in detail here because besides being the founder of the Electrical Generation Authority of Thailand (EGAT), which became a splendid model for all the state enterprises to follow, he also is known as a first-class administrator through his administration of many organizations.

In politics he has been a member of the National Assembly and the Senate and also minister of industry and a minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister. He has been made acting prime minister on many occasions. And he announced his support for the Thai Leadership Party a few days ago.

Kasemsamoson Kasemsi (MRW) [royal title] is a former undersecretary of foreign affairs who was not entirely successful as an official in the Foreign Ministry and was moved over to become a minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister and a deputy prime minister in the first and second Anan governments. He also provided important assistance in helping Mr. Anan Panyarachun, the former prime minister, to restore the image of the country, which was ruined by the National Peacekeeping Council.

Chaloemchai Wasinon used to be an offical in the Ministry of Finance. He has been the director of many departments but retired as the director of the Excise Department. He was there when the distillery agreement between the government and the Sura Maharatsadon Company (public) was changed. After that he became a principle adviser to the Sura Maharatsadon Company and was also an adviser to many other public companies.

Thaloeng Thamrongnawasawat is also a former undersecretary but was secretary of agriculture and cooperatives in addition. He left government service 4 or 5 years ago but now is in and out because he is an adviser to the secretary of agriculture, Mr. Niphon Phromphan, of the Democrat Party.

Song Ongchaiwatthana is well-known as owner of the Tha Khao [rice dock], which is the largest central market in Thailand. Everyone calls him "Chief Two" because he is the head of the Noenmakok Subdistrict, Phayuhakhiri District, Nakhon Sawan Province. He is a subdistrict head who has been a member of the Senate. Now he lets his children take care of his business and he spends his time hitting golf balls at the Chiraprawat course. It is feared that he still has a great deal of fire left in him because he is only 61.

Praphanphong Wetchachiwa is very famous. He is well-known because he manages the billions of baht in assets of Chulalongkon University as the deputy director for investments. And now in addition to being an adviser to giant companies such as the World Trade Center and hospitals etc., he is also deputy director of the Sasin Institute for Business Administration at Chulalongkon University. He has a classmate who heads a party, Athit Urairat, the leader of the Sammakhi Tham Party. But for some reason he has settled on the Thai Leadership Party.

Prasong Sukhum is a former assistant director of the Bureau of the Budget and the first secretary-general of the Office of Accelerated Rural Development. He is a former member of the National Assembly and was an assistant minister of commerce in the government of Mr. Sanya Thammasak from 1974 to 1977. Then he was borrowed from the Interior Ministry for the position of assistant minister of communications again before taking leave of politics and entering business as deputy chairman of the board of the Osotsapha Company (Tek Heng Yu).

He was in the same class as Amnui's older brother at the Bangkok Christian School for one year. He studied with Thaloeng and Police Maj. Gen. Phao Sarasin. He has known Amnui for a long time. He also had contact with Amnui because he was head of the Society of Thai Students in the United States of which Amnui was a member.

Another member was Phongpraphan Samphawakhup, the son of a famous politician now deceased, "Phanit Samphawakhup." He is an MP from Phetburi and a former assistant minister of commerce. He is very close to Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan, the head of the Chat Phatthana Party. Now he is in real estate and is the owner of the Silom Complex and the Sukhumwit Complex.

Among those founding the party, one who takes this work very seriously is Mr. Phongsot Siriyothin. He is the son of General Siri Siriyothin, who founded the Chat Thai Party. He is like a fruit which did not fall far from the tree - he has followed his father. He had a role in founding the party because he has a close relationship with the acting head of the party. He was his personal secretary when Amnui was chairman of the board of directors of the Bangkok Bank. Later he was deputy clerk for the prime minister while Amnui was a deputy prime minister.

In tenth place is Warin Phunsiriwong, the manager of the newspaper NEAO NA. He was formerly well-known as a cargo boss because he was the owner of World Express, an air freight company. Now there are rumors that he must cast political spells and go arm in arm with the acting head of the party as Amnui wades through the election in Khon Kaen Province. It is also said that he has close ties with "Sia Chang," Anan Kanchanaphat, of Bangkok Land who, it is said, is an important financial backer for the Thai Leadership Party such that Warin sold him 5 percent of the stock in the newspaper NEAO NA.

Wirot Phutrakun presently holds the position of chairman of the board of directors of the Lever Brothers Company (Thailand) Ltd. This is the largest producer and distributor of consumer products in Thailand and has tens of billions of baht in sales. He is from Lampang Province and earned his bachelor's degree in economics in England. He was with Lever Brothers (Thailand) Ltd. for 20 years before becoming chairman of the board in 1979.

In addition he is also a member of the board of the Thai Industrial Palm Oil and Plantation Company Ltd., the Siam Palm Oil and Industry Ltd., the Chiarawanit Palm Oil Company, and the Thai Commercial Bank. He is also president of the Industrial Estates Authority of Thailand, vice-president of the Industrial Council of Thailand, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of England, a member of the Thai Development and Research Institute (TDRI), and a member of the ASEAN Institute for Management.

Somphon Klinphongsa is in the second string. He has been a deputy governor, a deputy director for the governor, and the secretary-general of the Office of Accelerated Rural Development. But he is well-known as the governor with steel bones because he was in a plane crash and escaped miraculously. He finally retired as a deputy under-secretary of interior. But now he is still serving the government as a civilian government employee. Phairot Piamphongsan, the president of the Ban Chang Group and an important cog behind the scenes in the Thai Leadership Party, encouraged him to join the SOS Company, which is a company of Ban Chang Land and House. Now he is chairman of the service committee of Phuket Island.

Somphop Amatyakun is now a member of the board of directors of the Saha Union Company Ltd. (public). He worked for the I.B.M. Company of Thailand Ltd. from 1968 to 1986. He was appointed to the board of directors of I.B.M. Thailand before he left to become a member of the board of directors of Saha Union in January in 1994.

Sukhon Kanchanalai, the iron lady of the Ministry of Commerce, just retired last September as director of the Department of Business Economics and used to be director of the Department of Commercial Registration. She is a former member of the PTTh.SPh. [expansion unknown], a former member of the Organization for Trade Finance, and was an important representative for the country in talks over international trade problems including copyrights and patents and so on.

She has known Amnui personally since the time when she was an official in the Office of Technology and Planning in the Ministry of National Development. She was a direct subordinate of Amnui's as a government official continuously for 10 years from 1963 to 1972 before she became a first grade official of the Ministry of Commerce. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Commentary Reviews Development of U.S. Relations

BK2109143894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] American and Vietnamese aviation experts recently met to discuss the establishment of direct passenger flights. Now, Thu Huong will bring you our review of recent developments in relations between the United States of America and Vietnam.

Over the past months, especially in early September, relations between Vietnam and the U.S.A. have witnessed the positive activities in preparation for the establishment of liaison offices in the near future. Asked by an AFP correspondent at a regular press conference in Hanoi last week, deputy head of the Press and Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Ngo Van Hoa, said that the two sides were preparing the location of the liaison offices in the capital of the two countries.

In the meantime, Peter Tomsen, under assistant to U.S. secretary of state [title as heard], paid a two-day working visit to Vietnam to discuss bilateral relations. Peter Tomsen was received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Vice Minister of Defense Nguyen Thoi Bung, and Vice Minister of Interior Le Minh Huong, and had working sessions with Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai and other senior officials of Vietnamese agencies concerned. During the talks, both sides discussed international and regional issues of mutual concern.

(Patrick Murphy), an aviation expert, told an AFP correspondent that his mission had made a foundation for further negotiations for an agreement on aviation cooperation. If the agreement is signed, regular commercial flights between cities of the United States of America and Vietnam would be carried out since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Four aviation companies in the United States namely Delta, United, Northwest, and Continental are very much interested in Vietnam aviation. One American diplomat predicted that the agreement would be reached next February. These events are inevitable because after the U.S. President lifted the embargo on Vietnam, and especially when he abolished aid restriction to Vietnam, the American people, tourists, and businessmen started to develop their relations with Vietnam. In the first few months of this year, thousands of American tourists came to Vietnam. Until now, American businessmen have traded and invested in Vietnam more than $2.7 million. In 1994-95, the figure might be $8 million.

About 110 American companies are searching opportunity for investment in Vietnam. Two large companies, Boeing Airlines and the Caterpillar Corporation, specializing in construction, are studying projects in Vietnam worth $10 million. In addition, the future development in cultural, scientific, and technological relations require further development in transport sector, including improvement of aviation and navigation transportation.

VNA Reports on Emigration to United States

BK2209085494 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 22—More than 370,000 Vietnamese have settled in the United States during the last 10 years.

Of this figure, 97,240 are ex-officials or Army officers of the Saigon regime (HO category) and 85,514 are Amerasians (AC category). The rest have gone under the Orderly Departure Program which reunited them with their sponsoring relatives in the States.

Another 80,000 are awaiting interviews.

The US side has made known that after sorting cases included in [passage indistinct] and arrange interviews for all people in the HO category who want to leave for the United States. The United States also promises to take all Amerasians of the AC category if they so desire.

The ODP was agreed upon by the two governments in 1980 but it was not until 1984 that it was begun.

Paper Criticizes Former U.S. Admiral's Remarks

BK2209124594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The Vietnamese Army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN has criticized former American Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt for his comments on Vietnam. In an editorial on Thursday, the Army paper quoted the BBC radio broadcast on Monday and the VOA broadcast on Tuesday as saying that Admiral Zumwalt stopped over in Bangkok after his visit to Vietnam and declared that incorrect economic policies had been imposed in Vietnam, and as a result the USA did not help Vietnam over the past 20 years. He also said that the USA had warned [as heard] Vietnam in peace and that Hanoi wanted the U.S. to invest in Vietnam.

The Army newspaper said that these comments would not include a good will but ran counter to the aspirations of the two peoples of Vietnam and the USA. During his visit to Vietnam from 9 to 16 September, former Admiral Zumwalt was received by State President Le Duc Anh and said that he felt the responsibility to help heal the wounds left by the Vietnam war. He even declared in Hanoi that his visit to Vietnam was with good will aimed at strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations between the USA and Vietnam.

The Army newspaper made comparisons on the statements made by former Admiral Zumwalt in Hanoi and in Bangkok as could not justify the changing attitude of the former admiral of America's involvement in Vietnam's war of independence.

The Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN concluded that Vietnam warmly welcomes and highly appreciates efforts made by American politicians, social organizations, and people in gradually improving the relations between the two countries. It strongly rejected any allegations or activities which go against that trend.

Commentary Views 'Complicated' Haiti Situation

BK2109142294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The crisis in Haiti has been solved. However, public world opinion remarks that complicated issues still remain from the island. Following is our radio comment on the situation in Haiti:

At 0930 local time of 9 September, the U.S. troops landed in Haiti without being attacked. Dozens of American armed helicopters landed in the Port-au-Prince international airport. U.S. troops occupied the airport, gained control of the Port-au-Prince port and other positions around the port.

The same day, General Sheldon discussed with Gen. Raoul Cedras, leader of the military force in Haiti the deployment of 15,000 troops, most of them Americans. The atmosphere of the war would prevail in Port-au-Prince of Haiti. Local people were very much worried about the military intervention. They fled the capital for rural areas concentrating in border areas with the Republic of Dominican.

Facing diplomatic isolation and the threat of U.S. troops, the Haitian dictators had to seek for negotiations with the U.S. mission headed by former President Jimmy Carter. After 16 hours of serious discussion, the seven-point agreement to resolve the crisis was signed. Under the agreement, Haitian dictators have to leave quickly right after the adoption of the general amnesty by the Haitian Parliament. Gen. Raoul Cedras and the powerful officials and commanders of the Haitian armed forces have to step down. The U.S. military mission will coordinate with the Haitian military commander-in-chief and the UN will lift the embargo and elections for a new parliament will be held.

With the acceptance for the resignation of the Haitian dictators, the crisis on the island has been resolved. Nevertheless, the situation in Haiti remains very tense and complicated. Threat of a new crisis has been hanging in Port-au-Prince. It is reported that Gen. Cedras resigned to protest against the signing of the agreement, and now armed forces in Haiti were very annoyed with the occupation of 15,000 foreign and American troops on the island. The transfer of power will be taking place one month after the signing of the agreement. And within one month, the present Haitian dictators could possibly cause further tragedies. Even the overthrown president, Mr. Aristide, also expressed his concern over this issue. The new Haitian army and police will be made, which consists mainly the majority of the troops of the present army, so it is impossible to say that the peace process in Haiti can be achieved easily.

At present, public opinions hope that the UN should lift up its embargo on Haiti and international community should urgently grant humanitarian aid to save the lives of the Haitian people, the victims of the crisis on the island.

Deputy Prime Minister Departs for PRC Visit

BK2209125794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai left Hanoi Wednesday for a nine-day visit to China which will take him through the southern provinces of the country. Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai is the guest of his Chinese counterpart, Zhu Rongji. He is visiting Kunming and will then travel to Guangzhou, Beijing, and Shanghai.

Radio Reviews Cooperation With East Europe

BK2109155994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Essay by Dang Mai Phuong: "Vietnam-East Europe Cooperation in the New Stage"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the last two years, east European countries have strengthened relations with Asia, especially with Japan, China, India, and other newly industrialized countries.

The development of relations with Vietnam also received high priority. East European countries highly value Vietnam's renovation policy and socioeconomic development achievement and recognize the role and position of Vietnam in Southeast Asia. All the countries expressed the wish to extend and develop cooperation with Indochina and Southeast Asia through comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam. We also want to expand our cooperation with the western and northern European countries through cooperation with eastern Europe.

To materialize that wish, and at the invitation of the governments of the five east European countries, a Vietnamese Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong paid a working visit in August to Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Romania. During the visit, discussions were held on cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in accordance with general principles in international trade and investment. All the countries expressed the wish to participate in bidding for projects to construct infrastructure in Vietnam, especially the projects funded by international organizations. Bilateral and trilateral cooperation in implementing projects in Vietnam to overcome the obstacle of capital shortage have been discussed. The countries all referred to the expansion of direct cooperation between business establishments and joint venture cooperation to produce the high quality merchandise for which Vietnam has already been recognized to increase trade value, such as with clothing, consumer goods, leather shoes, agricultural and aquatic products, and tropical fruits and vegetables.

Vietnam and the five east European countries signed a number of agreements on bilateral cooperation. With Poland, we signed agreements on encouraging and protecting investment and on avoiding double taxation. Poland expressed the willingness to participate in expanding factories that they helped us build in the past, such as the Van Diem sugar factory and the Gia Lam locomotive factory. They also want to participate in developing our agricultural establishments, coal mines, chemicals, railroad, ocean economy, energy, mechanics, oil and gas, plantation and processing of industrial plants like coffee, rubber, tea, and in opening flights connecting the two countries.

In Hungary, the two sides signed agreements of investment encouragement and protection and avoidance of double taxation. The two sides discussed the possibility of joint venture cooperation in assembling and production of buses, medicines, medical equipment, and rubber.

We signed a trade agreement with the Czech Republic. The two sides agreed to speed up discussions for agreement on encouraging and protecting investment and avoiding double taxation. The two sides also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the production of high-quality glass, automobile tires, textiles, clothing, and so forth.

In the Slovakia, within the scope of agreements reached during the visit to Vietnam by the Slovak prime minister in July this year, the two sides discussed development of cooperation in light industry, textiles, clothing, leather shoes, supply of materials for production and processing of tropical agricultural products, a joint venture in container production, and building container ships. The two sides also agreed to speed up signing agreements on encouraging and protecting investment, avoiding double taxation, civil aviation, and establishing joint chambers of commerce for the two countries.

In Romania, we signed agreements on navigation cooperation, investment encouragement and protection, and discussed the possibility of establishing a Vietnam-Moscow-Bucharest flight and letting Romania fly the Bangkok-Hanoi route. The two sides also discussed cooperation in the oil and gas industry, equipment for oil exploration, and the issue of Romania participating in bidding for construction of an oil refinery, glass factory, subway system for Hanoi, and general cooperation in building the infrastructure.

Vietnam and east Europe are very far apart geographically, but the traditional cooperation will serve as a foundation for further cooperation in economy and trade in the new stage. Hopefully, together with the socioeconomic growth to overcome all crises in the east European countries, and with the goodwill cooperation on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, promises and discussions made between east European countries and Vietnam will bring many surprising results.

Article Views Human Rights, Human Dignity

BK2109132494 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Article by Nguyen Viet Phuong: "Some Exchanges of Views on Human Rights, Human Dignity"]

[Text] Over the past several years, human rights have become a prominent issue covering various aspects and containing different points of view. That is a fact. People were killed in an extremely barbarous way during the bloody World Wars I and II and the ensuing wars of aggression against Third World countries. Nowadays, the wars of aggression have subsided. Nonetheless, the struggle for power and ethnic cleansing have flared up in many countries, with secret hands pulling [illegible] strings in the background. Those wars led to the most flagrant human rights violations and left behind countless gloomy consequences on people of different generations. By counting on its strength, the United States has conducted military intervention in many countries, became enormously rich after nearly a century, and built more magnificient cities. Nevertheless, the deterioriation of morality and human dignity has reached alarming proportions. According to U.S. sociological statistics, the annual murder rate was about 2,000 cases half a century ago. In 1992, this figure reached as many as 25,000. Incidents involving drug addiction were rare in the past. Nowadays, drug addiction is found in more than 14.5 million people. Depression and killings motivated by racial hatred are affecting the hearts and minds of tens of millions of American youngsters. Pornography and promiscuity are propagated almost publicly... It would be a real disaster if all of those evils occurred in every country. Actually, that "degradation epidemic" has reached every corner of this planet. Those evils are destroying the moral standards forged by the joint efforts of thousands of generations of the world nations. The state of human degradation has now reached the brink of abyss.

As members of the world community and being prompted by their tradition of human compassion, the Vietnamese people, Vietnamese residents in foreign countries included, share the common concern of the world community and fully support and actively participate in the struggle to safeguard and restore everyone's freedom and equality. The party and state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] have always set forth the objectives of the struggle for people's happiness based not only on theoretical and legal documents but also on everyday activities and practical deeds ranging from sacrifices in blood and bones to wrest back independence and freedom to endeavors to look after people's daily meals, eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, and ensure social justice. First, it is necessary to guarantee the right to live in peace and own collective or private means of production and to enjoy civic rights and fulfill one's duties toward national defense and construction. This is a protracted, complicated, difficult, and sensitive struggle. It must be said that mistakes have been made, but this is understandable because it is never easy to make a glorious dream come true overnight. Nonetheless, a sacred goal has been turned into a driving force for the entire party and people to make every effort to overcome difficulties, step by step and resolutely, to rectify mistakes caused by infantilism. Initial test results testify to the correctness of the renovation policy and herald a bright future for the nation. Misled people under the old regime underwent reeducation, and most of them did mend their ways and had their citizens' rights reinstated. Tens of thousands of people who fled the country in panic now return and receive government assistance to do business and participate in the building of a new society.

Hundreds of foreign companies have invested in Vietnam, and thousands of foreign delegations have been to Vietnam on fact-finding tours. All shared the view that the renovation process in Vietnam is the most successful, compared to what has been achieved by other countries in their bid to effect a change in their macro economies, and they all believe that Vietnam has one of the most liberal investment laws. The people's lives have, in fact, been initially improved. People have talked about the prospect of Vietnam becoming an Asian dragon.

Yet, hostile forces and those individuals with serious grudges against Vietnam have become furious. This is understandable. Reactionary and hostile forces have never changed their designs to oppose and sabotage Vietnam and to eradicate Vietnam's revolutionary gains. Members of these forces come from various hostile factions. They are henchmen who once used the enemy's guns to fight us, but they lost the war and fled abroad to live in exile. They have gathered to form something like an "overseas dictatorial regime" made up of the "Pluralistic Democracy Bloc" and the "Restoring the Spirit of Ngo Scholar" group. Together, they have striven to undermine us by working out a plan to "affect a change in the feelings" of the Vietnamese people, particularly of intellectuals and scholars. Taking advantage of the movement to demand human rights, they have resorted to the rhetoric "struggling for human rights" to bewitch and incite our people to overthrow our existing regime by using "attacking tactics."

Some people who think that they are too clever to be cheated have fallen prey to the enemy's deceptions. They have raised their voices demanding "democracy and pluralism," "restoration of human rights," and "establishment of a Western-style democratic system." They have deliberately presented prefabricated evidence about the "nature of a regime that denies human rights." Some even went to the extreme when they claimed that "Vietnam's independence has had to pay a high cost with human lives and property and that after peace has been restored, the people have continued to lead a miserable life." They assert that "our policy on the conduct of a protracted war of resistance had left untold suffering and a frustrating system, claiming that this is the root cause of a situation in which human rights are being trampled upon."

That is what they have done. Once they have become merciless like that, we cannot help discussing this issue. However, let us discuss the reliability of claims about human dignity: Good human dignity must be typified by kindness, integrity, and propriety. Only with righteousness and sincerity can a person's speech be honest and his actions fair. On the contrary, if he is evil-minded, all his words, however beautiful, will turn out to be hypocritical. Thus, whoever discusses human rights must be correct-minded and sincere if he wants the audience to believe him.

Will any innocent Vietnamese believe that human rights are enjoyed by exiled and enslaved people? Who can believe that by knowing how to surrender and to use some diplomatic skills to beg for the mercy of the aggressors, we would be able to maintain our national independence and our people's freedom? This is just a joke. Since the time of our distant ancestors, our nation has gone through countless experiences. When reading our history, no one can fail to notice the fact that in the war of resistance waged by Le Loi and Nguyen Trai against the Chinese Ming aggressors, we made the greatest concessions. We proposed that if the aggressors agreed to withdraw, we would present them with a solid gold statute as a sign of subjugation and would be ready to have our king crowned by them. However, this proposal failed to change the mind of the emperor of the Ming Dysnasty.

They only recognized Vietnam's independence after the defeat of their four groups of reinforcement troops. Under French colonialism, Doctor of Philosophy Phan Boi Chau wrote an essay on "The France-Vietnam Companionship" to Governor (Sarreau) and held talks with Mr. (Neron), a representative of the French Government. He did not get anywhere. Vietnam was still a colonial country. Of course, the people of a colonial country have no human rights. Mr. (Vignaut), a Frenchman, wrote: "No people in the world have been oppressed and ill-treated like colonial people... the life of a Vietnamese is worth only half a cent...." The people in South Vietnam under the U.S. puppet regime also enjoyed their human rights in strategic hamlets. The Vietnamese people were treated like dust in mass murders at Vinh Trinh Dam and My Lai village. In central Vietnam, in only four years under Ngo Dinh Can [brother of former South Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem], 300,000 people were killed without trial.

Learning from untold sacrifices in blood and bones and age-old shame and hatred, President Ho Chi Minh stated a reality by saying "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." This saying has become a sacred tenet for the entire nation. Countless Vietnamese people have vowed "to die for the survival of the country." The entire Vietnamese people undertook a resistance war for more than a quarter of a century to regain independence and unification to become the true owner of the nation before laying a foundation for human rights. However, some people have boldly denied and denounced the sacrifice of many generations to achieve our current standard. Can we say that they are ungrateful people? I leave that for the public to decide.

Some people want Vietnam to have an institution of human rights like Europe and America. Of course, Europe and America have good ideas to offer, and great ideas always travel far. Why must we be so bluntly dogmatic? Every country has its own customs and traditions. Every country is fully aware of its people's life and human rights. Our party and state always treasure the concern of friends and virtuous men about the quality of life of our people. Our party and state do not deny our poor protection of human rights due to different causes: The economic structure has not developed strongly in the renovation process, the legal structure to ensure the right to democracy has not been perfected and popularized, and the people's knowledge has not been upgraded.... Besides, many cadres and officials of the state organs have degraded and violated human rights. However, that is only special and transitory circumstances of social life. Some cases are severe, but they do not represent the true characteristics of the socialist regime of Vietnam. Our party and state are actively correcting those weaknesses and mistakes. They are strictly dealing with violations of democracy and human rights.

It is normal for people who are not content nor sharing the same ideas to harshly criticize and denounce us. This is the legal practice of the right to democracy, but they should do it with goodwill and honesty. If they are not impartial, they degrade their own human dignity.

A former Saigon military officer wrote an open letter worthy for us to ponder: "If we only look in one way without referring to the entire development in Vietnam in the last 100 years, our assessment must be wrong." The author also offered a warning to the people who are "changing their thinking" to the alien "democratic pluralism:" Be careful at the dangerous trap of a conspiracy to destroy our national independence.

Provinces Linked to North-South Power Line

BK2209085394 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 22—The power station at Danang was switched on to the Trans-Viet power line on

Sept. 19, linking the central provinces to the national grid.

The memorable event was witnessed by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

The north-south 500 kv power line has transmitted 312 million kwh [kilowatt hours] from the northern power grid to the southern grid after more than 3 months of operations according to a recent report by the Ministry of Energy.

This supply has meant that the south no longer suffers from the chronic power shortages it faced a year ago.

The additional power has also allowed several thermal power plants in the south to cut back their operations, saving millions of dong worth of diesel and fuel oil.

Power transmission proceeded smoothly during the initial three-month period, reaching 320 megawatts in peak periods.

However the reservoirs at Tri An and Da Nhim were nearly full this year because of generous rains, which allowed the two hydropower stations to generate sufficient power to meet most of the consumption needs in the south. Therefore power from the north often went unused. Meanwhile, substantial power losses were recorded in transmission up to 14 to 20 per cent along the 1,500 km of cable.

The minister of energy intends to connect the power station of Pleiku to the 500 kv power in the near future so as to transmit power to the highland provinces.

Australia

Police To Serve in Haiti 'Up to Six Months'

BK2109094694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Canberra, Sept 21 (AFP)—A contingent of 30 Australian Federal Police officers will be sent to Haiti to help the United Nations restore law and order, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday. Evans said the team would spend up to six months on the Caribbean island to monitor how Haitian police performed their duties. The police will be part of a UN-sanctioned multinational force which will also include police from Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Britain and the Netherlands.

Government Will Not Replace Troops in Somalia

LD2209104994 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Australia will not replace its troop contingent in the United Nations operation in Somalia at the end of the present rotation schedule because of security concerns. The Australian Government has decided that once the current defense personnel team finishes its tour of duty later this year no more personnel will be sent. Camille Funnell reports that the troops will be brought home in stages, beginning next month.

[Funnell] There are now 67 defense force personnel in Mogadishu as part of the UN operation and it's concern for their safety that has prompted the Government to act. Defense Minister Robert Ray and Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans say recent incidents in Somalia indicate UN personnel are being targeted by local militia. The ministers say in recent months the security situation has deteriorated significantly with several major outbreaks of inter- clan fighting and an increase in banditry. They say given the prospects for political reconciliation and the security situation there is no justification for extending Australia's commitment to the UN force.

Indonesian Vice President Arrives in Canberra

BK2209020294 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Indonesia's Vice President Try Sutrisno has arrived in the Australian capital, Canberra, to meet top government officials and address the Defense Force Academy. The vice president arrived a short time ago, leaving the Canberra Airport by a side entrance and avoiding a handful of demonstrators.

Earlier, a lawyer in Canberra said he would ask the Australian federal court to have Mr. Try Sutrisno declared a war criminal. The lawyer, Bernard Connery, said the court order would be sought because of Mr. Sutrisno's actions at the time of the Dili massacre, when he was chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces. The vice president is protected by diplomatic immunity, but Mr. Connery claims this recognition is unlawful because of the atrocities in East Timor. Mr. Connery says he is acting as legal adviser to the Timorese resistance movement in Australia.

Sutrisno Seeks 'Nuclear-Free Zone'

BK2209085794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0646 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Canberra, Sept 22 (AFP)—Moves to have Southeast Asia declared a nuclear-free zone could start next year, Indonesian vice-president Try Sutrisno said here Thursday. Sutrisno, who is on a three-day visit, told a defence seminar here that a Southeast Asian nuclear agreement could be incorporated in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at a conference to extend the treaty.

"We aim to create a zone free of nuclear weapons in Southeast Asia," he said. "Not a single country in Southeast Asia desires to possess or to produce nuclear weapons."

Sutrisno said the end of the Cold War had provided new challenges for peace and security in the region, but the growth of regional economies and trade relations were important factors in maintaining stability.

"The growing intermingling of economic interests is serving as a unifying factor within the region, or at least as a stimulus for countries to consider what seem to be converging interests," he said. "If regional stability is to be guaranteed...constant attention must be paid to the question of how to keep the current high rate of growth in the light of current world developments."

Sutrisno said there was a need for new cooperative arrangements to guarantee regional peace and stability. The ASEAN regional forum which recently adopted a regional code of conduct was an important element.

He said defence purchases by regional countries should be transparent with the exchange of information and the building of defence linkages between nations.

Major powers in each sub-region should take a leadership role in building such security arrangements.

"Only after the first steps have been taken should one expect a great deal of cooperation across the entire Asia Pacific region," Sutrisno said.

Sutrisno, who is the highest-ranked Indonesian to visit this country since President Suharto in 1975, is scheduled to meet with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating on Friday.

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